AFTERNOON
KC403

しおんの王

3

13TH MOVE NEW GAME p003
14TH MOVE IDLE PIECES p031
15TH MOVE CHALLENGE p081
16TH MOVE CALIBE p167
17TH MOVE UNSEEN EDGE p233
18TH MOVE DOOR TO DREAMS p293

The Flowers of Hard Blood

Story : KATORI MASARU × Art : ANDO JIRO

AFTERNOON KC

Cover Design TADASHI HISAMOCHI (hive)

13TH MOVE NEW GAME p003
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しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

Story KATORI MASARU × Art : ANDO JIRO

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しおんの王

The Flowers of Heartbreak

3

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

Story KATORI MASARU Art・ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

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しおんの王

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原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

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しおんの王

注目の本格将棋サスペンス、最新刊！

勝負は1人じゃできないから。

かとりまさる
安藤慈朗

講談社

アフタヌーンKC
しおんの王 3
ISBN4-06-314403-6

かとりまさる
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「しおんの王」主な登場人物

幼い頃に両親を飛行機事故で亡くし、ショックで言葉を失う。女流棋士になった11歳！

新人でなんのとりえもない平凡な将棋を指す。その正体は…？

冷静沈着な大人の将棋を指す11歳の女流初段。現名人・我仁との関係は…？

漫画はもちろん超付録に自信あり！
「しおんの王」はじめ、精選漫画ラインナップが連載中の
アフタヌーン
は、毎月25日発売です。

携帯アフタヌーン
http://aftm.jp
「しおんの王」のデジタルトレカを無料プレゼント！

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

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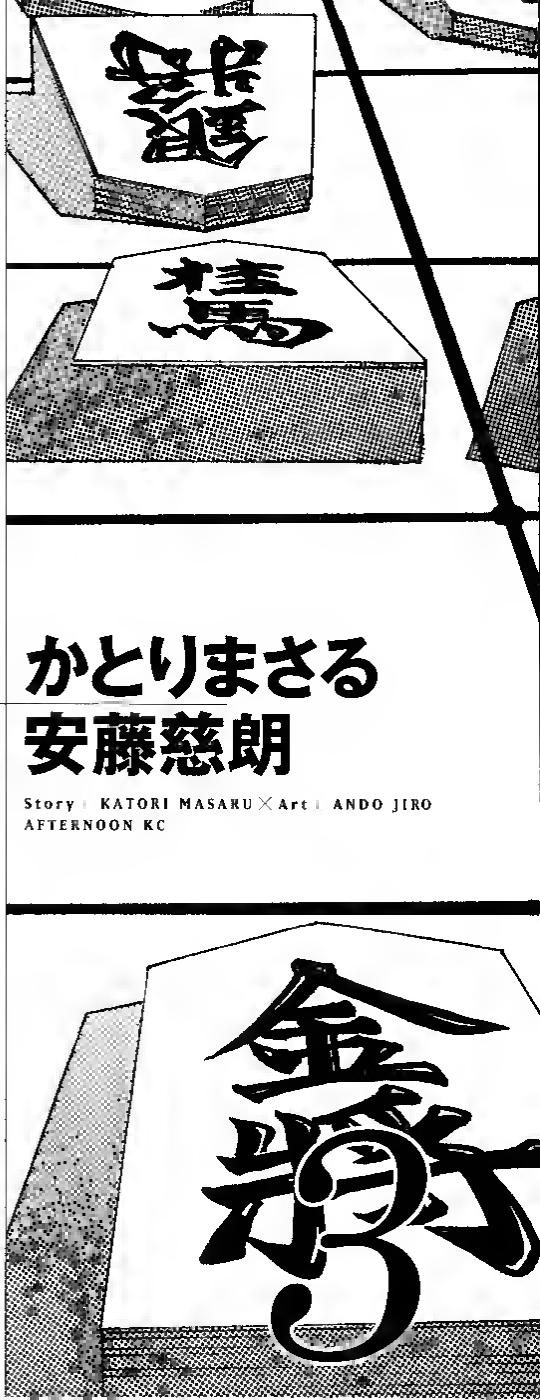
The Flowers of Hard Blood.

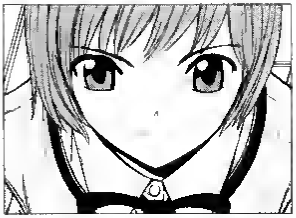


原作 かとりまさる

漫画 安藤慈朗

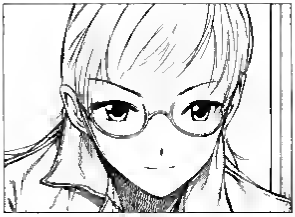
Story | KATORI MASARU × Art | ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

TRAGEDY STRIKES AN INNOCENT FAMILY. THE PARENTS ARE KILLED, YET THEIR YOUNG DAUGHTER IS LEFT ALIVE AND ALONE. ADOPTED BY A PRO SHOGI PLAYER AND HIS WIFE, SHE GROWS UP TO BE A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN. INFLUENCED BY HER ADOPTIVE FATHER THIS YOUNG WOMAN, SHION, ALSO DECIDED TO BECOME A PRO SHOGI PLAYER - A KISHI. HER CHOICE LEADS HER TO MEET TWO YOUNG WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYERS, SAITOU AYUMI AND NIKAIDOU SAORI. AFTER BECOMING CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS, THE THREE ENTER THEIR FIRST TOURNAMENT AND COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER IN ONE GRUELING MATCH AFTER ANOTHER. THESE THREE, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND PLAYING STYLES, SEEM DRAWN TO EACH OTHER, BOTH AS OPPONENTS AND AS FRIENDS.



SHION

WOMEN'S LEAGUE KISHI. 14 YEARS OLD. PARENTS WERE MURDERED WHEN SHE WAS 6 AND THE SHOCK CAUSED HER TO LOSE HER VOICE. COMMUNICATES THROUGH WRITING.

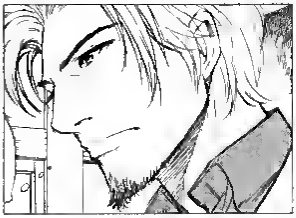


AYUMI

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT. DRESSES AS A GIRL AND COMPETES IN THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE TO EARN MONEY TO HELP HIS SICK MOTHER.

SAORI

1ST-DAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER. 16 YEARS OLD. A STUDENT AND SOMETHING OF A YOUNGER SISTER TO HANI. FAMILY IS VERY WELL OFF.

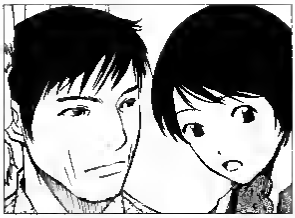


MAKOTO

THE CURRENT MEIJIN.

SATORU

THE MEIJIN'S YOUNGER BROTHER. UP-AND-COMING ENTREPRENEUR.

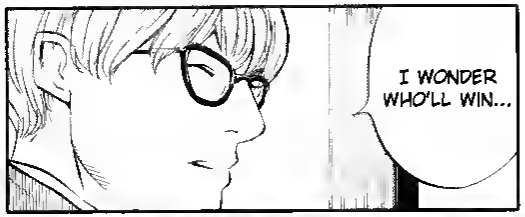


YASUOKAS

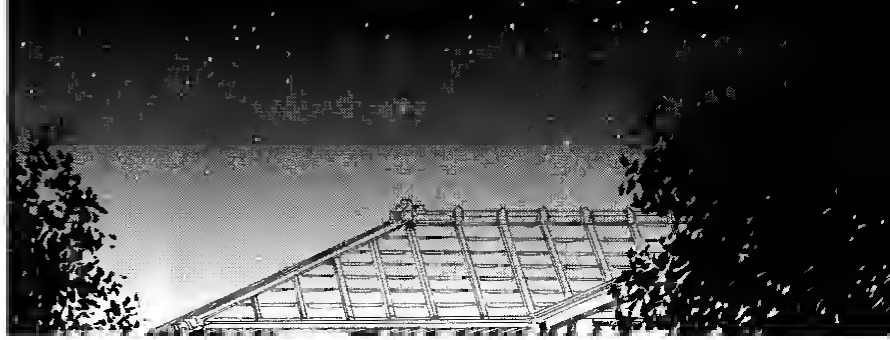
ADOPTED SHION 6 YEARS AGO WHEN HER PARENTS WERE MURDERED. THEY THINK OF HER AS THEIR OWN CHILD.

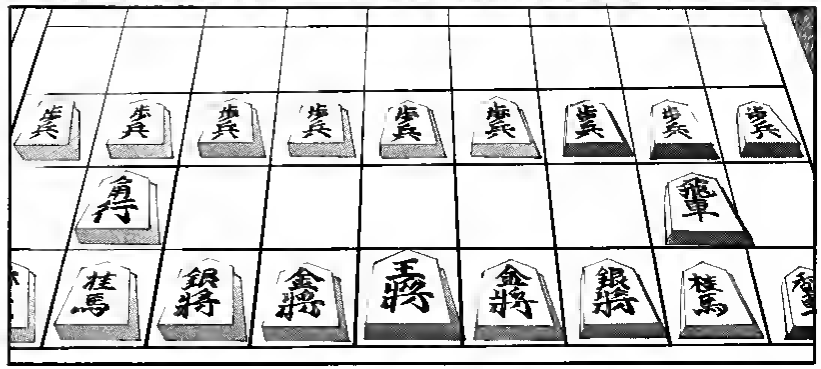
13TH MOVE NEW GAME

I'M NOT MY BROTHER, AFTER ALL.

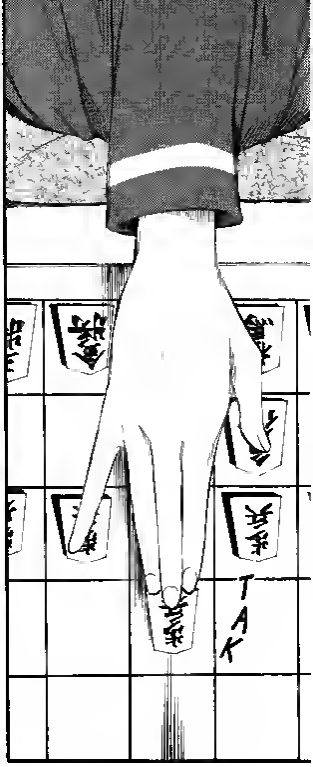

I WONDER WHO'LL WIN...

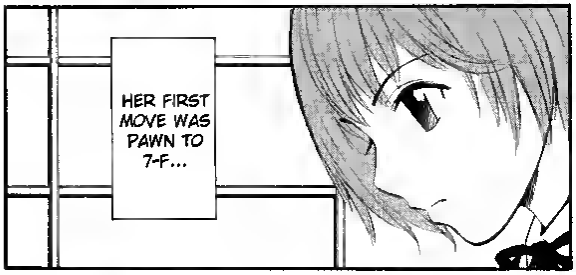
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SATORU-SAN?
THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION... I HAVE NO IDEA

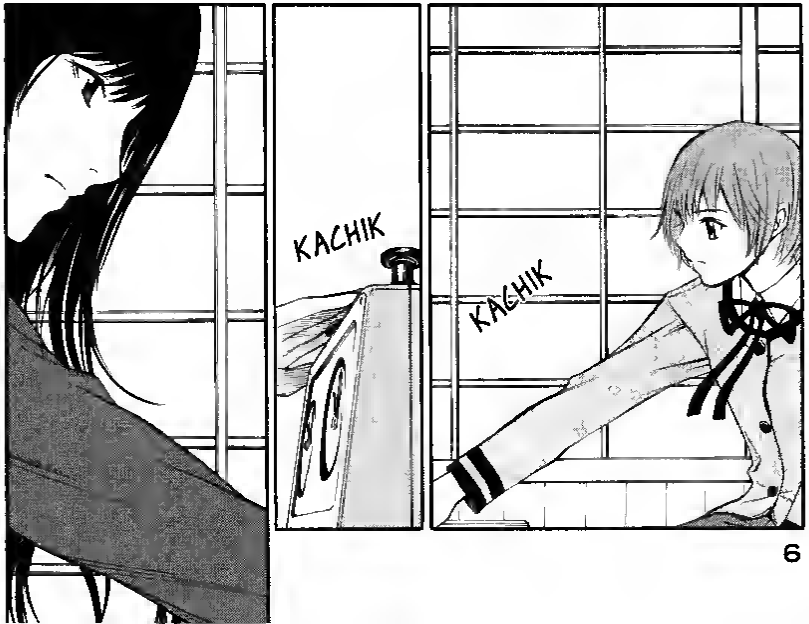




KACHIK


TAK


HER FIRST MOVE WAS PAWN TO 7-F...

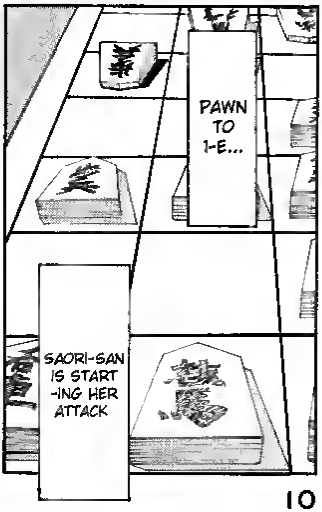

KACHIK
KACHIK

THE YAGURA OPENING.
NIKAIDOU-SAN'S TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.
WELL, SHE SHOULD BE. THESE TWO WILL HAVE TO FACE EACH OTHER MANY MANY TIMES IN THEIR CAREERS
I DIDN'T WANT OUR FIRST SERIOUS MATCH TO BE LIKE THIS...

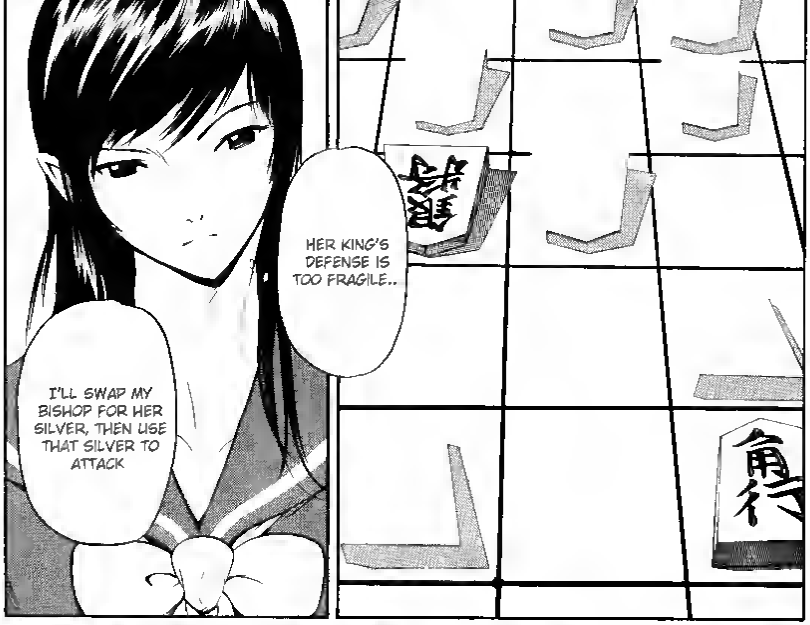
DO YOU KNOW HOW JEALOUS I WAS
WHEN HE COMPLIMEN -TED YOU?
HE DIDN'T WANT TO WATCH ME . HE CHOSE YOUR MATCH WITH SAITOU-SAN.
BUT IN THE END, I WON.
AND TONIGHT, I'LL SHOW YOU WHY.

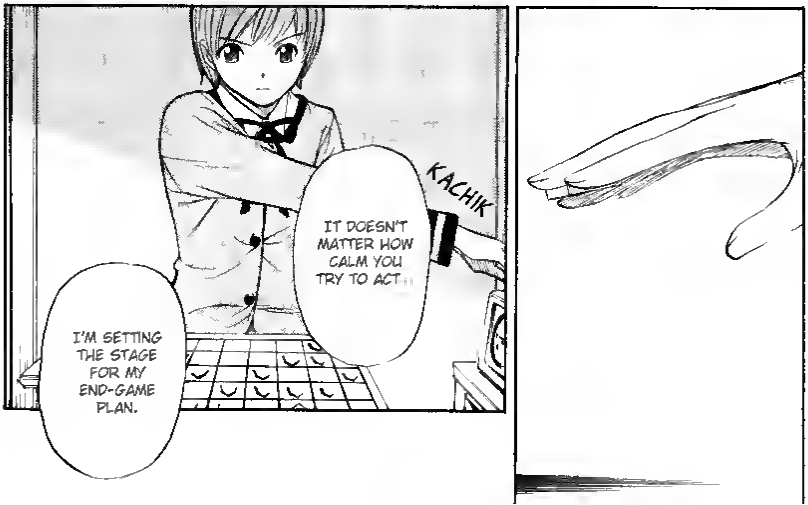
I'LL BEAT YOU, TOO!
NIKAIDOU-SAN IS GETTING FIRED UP, ISN'T SHE?
I'LL SAY.
SO WHY IS SHION SO CALM?

I SHOULD MOVE KING TO 2-B AND PROTECT THE KING'S HEAD...
I CAN'T LET HER SET ANY -THING BIG UP, HER MID-GAME IS TOO GOOD.


PAWN TO 1-E...
SAORI-SAN IS START -ING HER ATTACK

IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH.
I'M NOT ALL WORKED UP LIKE I WAS WHEN I PLAYED AYUMI-KUN.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE HEART-WRENCHING
THAN UNREQUITED LOVE.
WHA-
GULP


HER KING'S DEFENSE IS TOO FRAGILE..
I'LL SWAP MY BISHOP FOR HER SILVER, THEN USE THAT SILVER TO ATTACK


KACHIK
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW CALM YOU TRY TO ACT...
I'M SETTING THE STAGE FOR MY END-GAME PLAN.

AND AS FOR OUR AUDIENCE
JUST KEEP WATCHING.
YOU'LL SEE WHO THE BETTER PLAYER IS!

KNIGHT TO 3-F.
ATTACKING AND DEFENDING WITH THE SAME MOVE.
ONLY 20 MINUTES LEFT!

I KNEW THAT'D FORCE HER TO THINK.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN USING NON-STANDARD MOVES FOR A WHILE NOW...
歩兵
桂馬
IN A DRAWDOWN MATCH,
YOU CAN'T ALLOW THE OPPONENT TO DICTATE THE PACE.
TO WIN, YOU HAVE TO CONFUSE THEM FORCE THEM TO TAKE EXTRA TIME TO THINK
THE ONE THING YOU LACK, SHION-CHAN...
IS EXPERIENCE!

WHOMEVER USES UP THEIR HOUR FIRST LOSES, CORRECT?
I WONDER IF YASUOKA-SAN CAN HANDLE THIS..

KEEP STARING... IT WON'T HELP.
THE ANSWER ISN'T ALWAYS ON THE BOARD.
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU, BUT YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...YOU DON'T UNDER -STAND THAT YET-
?
Twitch
SHE'S CONCENTRA -TING SO HARD...
BUT IT'S TOO LATE!
HUUU ...

GOLD TO 3-C . NOT A BAD DEFENSE, BUT NOT A GOOD ONE EITHER.
TAK
SHE'S STILL JUST A CHILD
I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO WASTE ANY TIME THINKING ABOUT THIS ONE-
SHE'S ONLY GOT 5 MINUTES...
?
KACHIK

BUT SHE'S STILL NOT PANICKED?
SHE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT THE CLOCK THE WHOLE TIME SHE WAS THINKING...
YOU USUALLY BECOME MORE AWARE OF HOW MUCH TIME PASSES WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING A MATCH
BUT SHE'S NOT EVEN..

YASUOKA SHION...
WHAT A PECULIAR GIRL...
WHEN SHE'S PLAYING, IT'S LIKE SHE'S GONE OFF INTO HER OWN WORLD.

KOBAYASHI -SAN,
CAN YOU GIVE ME MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SPONSOR -SHIP PROCESS?
I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND
WHY MY BROTHER WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CALL ME.

RELAX. HER MOVES AREN'T BUILDING TOWARDS ANYTHING
THINGS STILL WENT HOW I WANTED THEM TO.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
I'VE GOT HER NOW... CHECKMATE!

NICE...

HOW WAS THAT?
MAKE SURE YOU TELL HANI-MEIJIN ALL ABOUT THIS MATCH.

LANCE TO 3-1!

FIRST I BEAT SAITOU AYUMI, AND NOW YASUOKA SHION...
TELL YOUR BROTHER THAT NIKAIDOU SAORI IS THE BEST!!

THAT'S IT...
SAORI-SAN HASN'T BEEN FOCUSED ON THE BOARD OR THE PIECES AT ALL...
THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T GOTTEN NERVOUS OR EXCITED.
I SEE NOW...

AN INTERPOSED PAWN..
GUESS YOU OVERLOOKED THAT, NIKAIDOU-SAN...

AN INTERPOSED PAWN...
GUESS YOU OVERLOOKED THAT, NIKAIDOU-SAN...

THAT...
THAT WASN'T CHECKMATE?!
WHAT DO I DO
I CAN'T LET HANI-NII HEAR THAT I LOST LIKE THIS, IT'S PATHETIC...
ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL JUST LET TIME RUN OUT...
I MAY LOSE THE MATCH, BUT NO ONE CAN SAY SHION-CHAN BEAT ME...
I'LL JUST SAY I LOST TO THE CLOCK, THEN EVEN HANI-NII. .
... HANI-NII...!

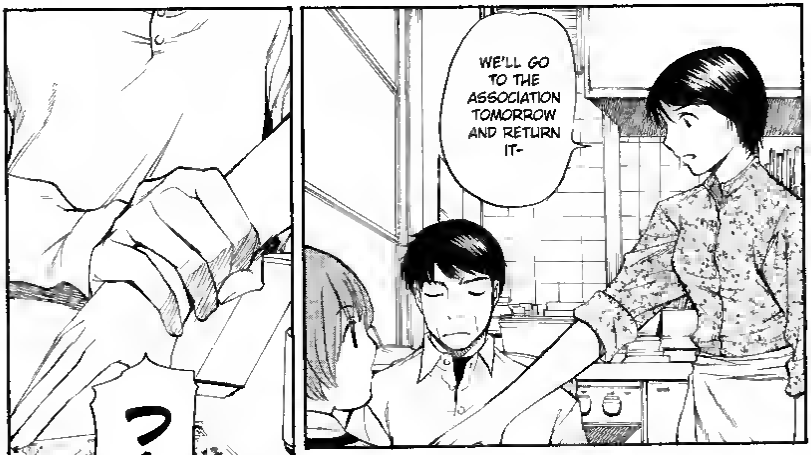
?
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
I COMPLETELY FORGOT, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING I NEED TO GET TO.

WHY DON'T I
"KEEP" THIS GAME FOR YOU?

SO,
HE PROMISED THE WINNER 100,000 YEN?

BUT THIS IS AT LEAST TWICE AS MUCH!
MAYBE EVEN THREE TIMES!
Yes.

BUT GIVING ALL THIS MONEY TO A CHILD...
HE MAY BE THE MEIJIN'S BROTHER,


?
WE'LL GO TO THE ASSOCIATION TOMORROW AND RETURN IT-

DO YOU REALLY FEEL LIKE YOU DEFEATED NIKAIDOU-SAN?
MOTHER.
GO TO THE BANK TOMORROW AND OPEN AN ACCOUNT FOR SHION, PLEASE
H-HONEY?
THERE'S NO NEED TO GIVE IT BACK.
SHION EARNED IT, FAIR AND SQUARE.

IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS...
THE TWO OF YOU DECIDE EVERYTHING YOURSELVES... LIKE SHION NOT GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL...
FINE.
I'LL GO TO THE BANK FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
A DIFFERENT ONE THAN WHERE WE PUT HER HOLIDAY GIFT MONEY
BUT!
YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP TRACK OF EVERY LAST YEN YOU WITH-DRAW AND DEPOSIT!
Shions Bank Book
YOU TOO, DEAR.
M-ME TOO?!
Daddy's Bank Book

NOW I CAN PAY THE TOURNAMENT'S ENTRY FEE ALL BY MYSELF.
THIS IS GREAT.
Daddy's Bank Book
Ayumi's Bank Book
BUT.. WHAT WILL AYUMI-KUN DO?
HI, IT'S ME. YES, I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY.
THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A SECOND.
I NEED YOU TO TELL DAD SOMETHING FOR ME..

TELL HIM... I'M NOT APPLYING TO COLLEGE.
NO, I MEAN IT.
I'M GOING TO BECOME A KISHI!

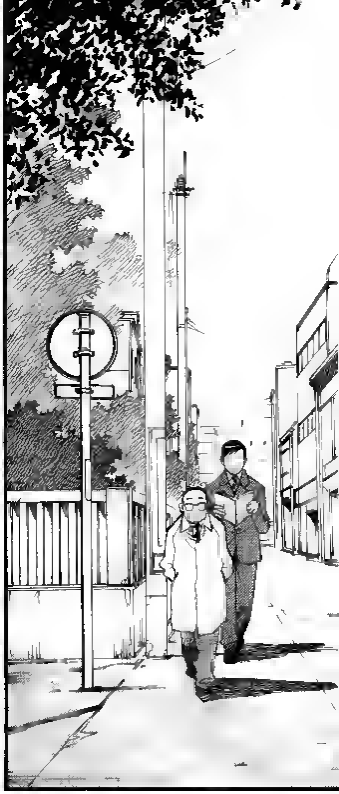
Hani Satoru
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
WE'RE ONE STEP CLOSER TO MAKING THIS TOURNAMENT A REALITY.
MY PLEASURE.
KOBAYASHI -SAN...
WHEN I SPOKE WITH MY BROTHER..
HE MENTIONED A THIRD GIRL HE THOUGHT WAS NOTE -WORTHY...

YEAH,
SAITOU AYUMI...
YOU MEAN SAITOU-SAN, CORRECT?
AH YES,
I'D LIKE TO MEET HER, TOO.

14TH MOVE IDLE PIECES

Magazine: Shogi Pal
NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES,
WEB SITES, TV SHOWS...

MANY PEOPLE PLAY WITH THOSE LITTLE STONES...

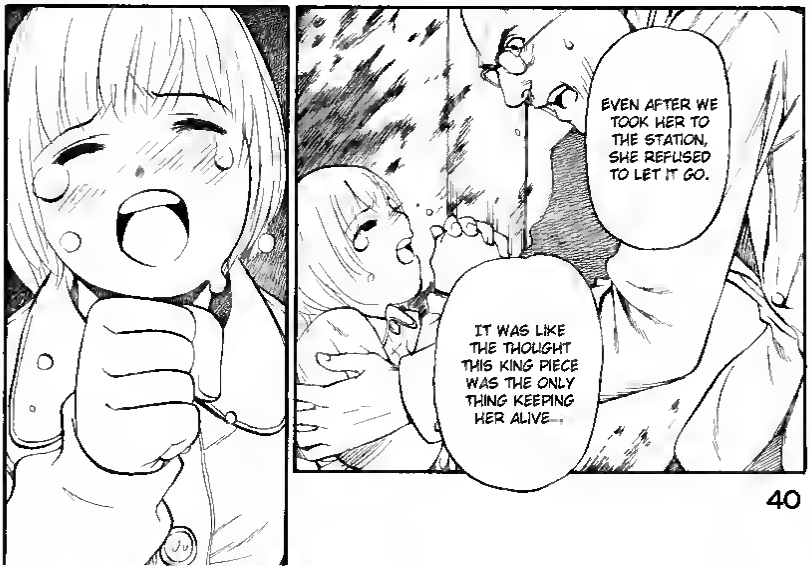


YOU MEAN "PIECES."
HUH?

DON'T THEY,
YOKOYAMA-SAN?
HM?

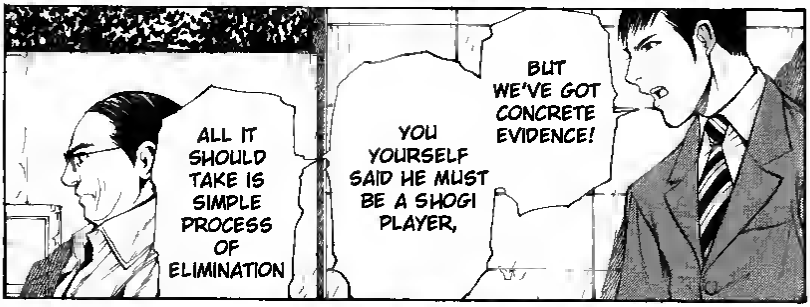
GO USES "STONES,"
SHOGI USES "PIECES."
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE READ UP ON SHOGI?
EH, WELL... I KNOW HOW THE PIECES MOVE, AT LEAST.
?
IS THIS WHOLE "SHOGI" CONNECTION REALLY GETTING US CLOSER TO THE KILLER?
IT SORT OF FEELS LIKE WE'RE AT A DEAD-END...
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THIS YET.

WHAT'S THIS...?
!?
SHION WAS FOUND HOLDING THAT PIECE DURING THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER.


EVEN AFTER WE TOOK HER TO THE STATION, SHE REFUSED TO LET IT GO.
IT WAS LIKE THE THOUGHT THIS KING PIECE WAS THE ONLY THING KEEPING HER ALIVE...

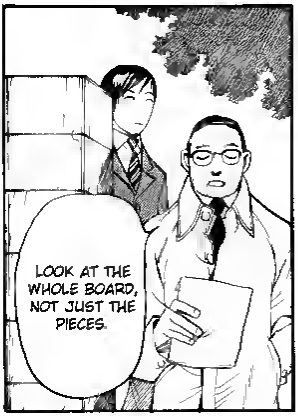
THE LAB ANALYSIS REVEALED TWO SETS OF FINGERPRINTS
ONE BELONGED TO SHION,
AND THE OTHER...
... MUST BE THE KILLER'S!
THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DO A THOROUGH RE-ANALYSIS OF THE FINGERPRINTS AND
MOST LIKELY

WE'VE TRIED THAT - THEY DON'T MATCH ANYONE WITH A PREVIOUS CONVICTION
ALSO, REMEMBER THAT IT WAS FOUND ON THE VICTIM'S BODY
WE'VE WORKED WITH MANY PEOPLE CONNECTED TO THE SHOGI WORLD, BUT NOTHING'S COME OF IT SO FAR

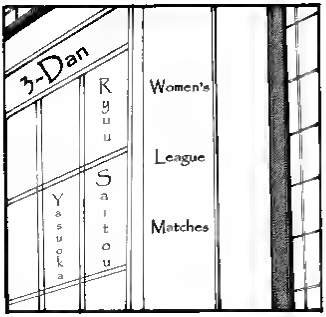

BUT WE'VE GOT CONCRETE EVIDENCE!
YOU YOURSELF SAID HE MUST BE A SHOGI PLAYER,
ALL IT SHOULD TAKE IS SIMPLE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

ARE YOU GOING TO TOUR THE NATION AND SEIZE PIECES FROM EVERY SHOGI DOJO THERE IS?
ふむ

将棋会館
THERE ARE ABOUT FIVE MILLION SHOGI PLAYERS IN THIS COUNTRY



SHOGI ASSOCIATION



YOUNG WOMEN LIKE SHION-SAN AND HER FRIENDS ARE GOING TO HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S SHOGI.
THINGS ARE GOING VERY WELL FOR HER.
SHE'S WON ALL OF HER REGULAR LEAGUE MATCHES

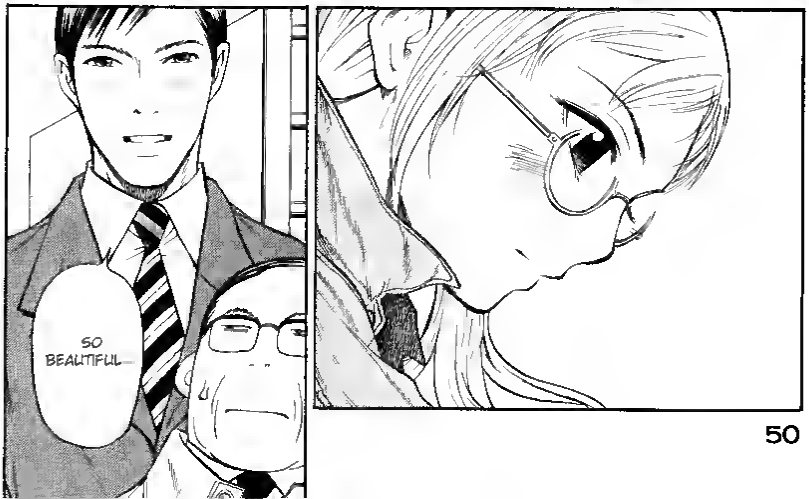
HO HO.

WOW, THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING A SERIOUS MATCH REALLY FEELS DIFFERENT
IT'S TENSE, BUT IN A FUN, EXCITING WAY
THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER,
THE KILLER MUST'VE SEEN HER SITTING AT THE BOARD.

I'M SURE HE'S STILL WATCHING HER, FROM SOMEWHERE...
ペコリ
BOW

WHO'RE THEY?
I GUESS OLD GUYS TEND TO GRAVITATE TOWARDS CUTE GIRLS LIKE HER...
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
YOU, IN THE BACK! QUIT LOOKING AT ME WITH THOSE PUPPY-DOG EYES!

THE OTHER GIRL THERE IS ONE OF SHION-SAN'S RIVALS, SAITOU-SAN.
WOW.
SHE'S ONLY SIXTEEN.
SIX TEEEE-EEN...


SO BEAUTIFUL...

LEAVING ALREADY? DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TALK WITH SHION-SAN?
BUH-WAH? OH, YES SIR!
C'MON.
HMM... ALL RIGHT, THEN...
JUST SEEING HOW SHE CONDUCTS HERSELF IN A MATCH IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
OH, WELCOME BACK!
HELLO!

THAT WOULD BE
HANI-MEIJIN'S YOUNGER BROTHER, SATORU-SAN.
THE MEIJIN'S
...

WHO'S HE?

NO, I'D SAY THEY'RE EXACTLY ALIKE...

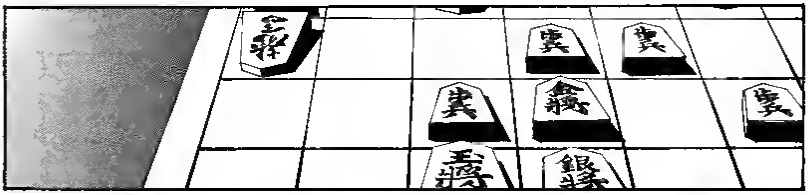
MOST PEOPLE CAN'T TELL...
THEY REALLY DON'T LOOK LIKE BROTHERS, DO THEY?

THE AIR THEY GIVE OFF, ANYWAYS...

THE "OPEN TOURNAMENT," WHERE ANYONE CAN PARTICIPATE IF THEY PAY THE ENTRY FEE?
IS HE THE SPONSOR OF THIS FAMOUS UPCOMING TOURNAMENT?
HMM?
I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE HEARD
WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED ADVERTISING YET
BUT WITHOUT ANY REQUIREMENTS,
WON'T MOST OF THE AMATEURS ONLY BE TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES?
YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME
IN MY LINE OF WORK, YOU END UP HEARING A LOT OF "SECRET" INFORMATION

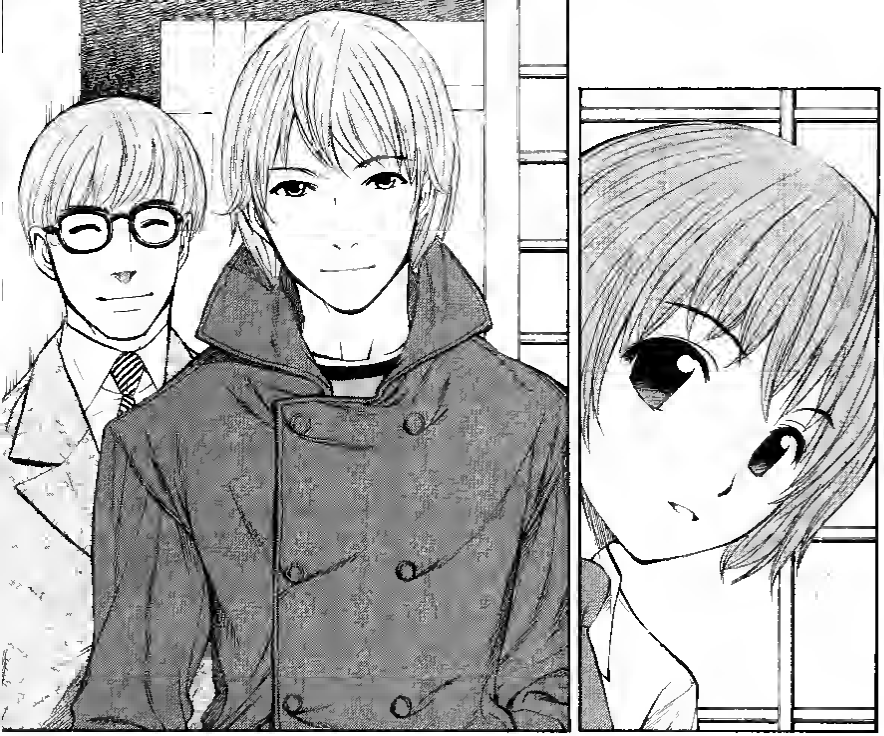
NOT NECESSARILY FOR MANY, IT'S ABOUT THE CHANCE TO PLAY A REAL KISHI IN AN OFFICIAL MATCH

MANY WILL BE THERE TO TEST THEMSELVES, OTHERS WILL COME SIMPLY TO BE ABLE TO SAY THEY PLAYED SOMEONE FAMOUS.



WELL, THAT'S IT FOR ME
ペコッ!!

Bow



Thank you for yesterday.

I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR PUSHING YOU INTO YESTERDAY'S MATCH.
BUT WATCHING YOU TWO COMPLETELY CHANGED MY VIEW OF THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE.
UH.. YOU ARE..?
DID YOU HAVE HER PLAY A MATCH WITH SOMEONE?
H-WHAT? TH-THEY REALLY GAVE ME A COOL NICKNAME LIKE THAT?!
OH YEAH! "YASUOKA'S GOLDEN BOY, HISATANI THE LION!"
He's my dad's student Hisatani 3-dan.

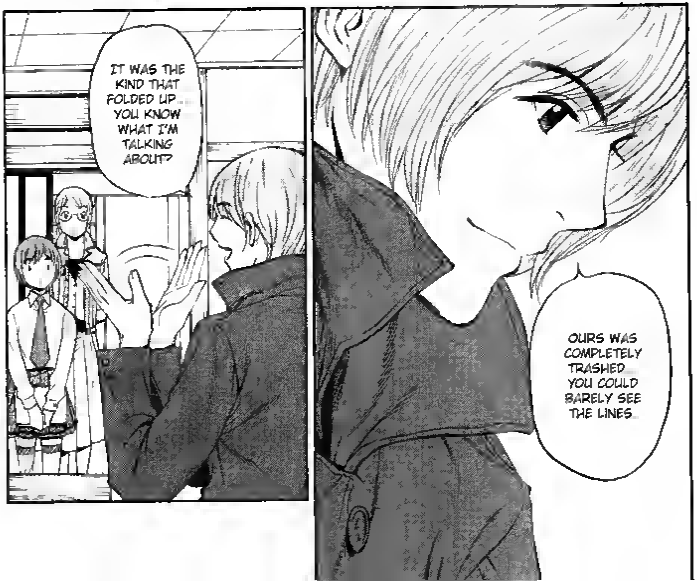
MY BROTHER AND I USED TO PLAY ALL THE TIME WHEN WE WERE KIDS
YEAH, THEY MENT-IONED YOU IN AN ARTICLE ABOUT SHION-SAN...
ABOUT. THIIIS MUCH
EVERY DAY, ONE MATCH AFTER ANOTHER. WE NEVER GOT TIRED OF IT.
IT WAS ALL WE HAD.
HUH?
DID SAITOU-SAN WIN, TOO?
SAITOU-SAN!

'SUP?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO HANI-MEIJIN'S YOUNGER BROTHER, HANI SATORU-SAN
YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D GIVE ME A LITTLE LESSON BY PLAYING A MATCH WITH ME
PERFECT TIMING,
I'LL GO SET THE BOARD UP
THE FIFTH FLOOR SHOULD BE EMPTY
PLEASE? I WAS REALLY HOPING YOU'D SAY YES

YASUOKA-SAN, WOULD YOU MIND BEING OUR TIMEKEEPER?
I'M A TOTAL BEGINNER WHEN IT COMES TO SHOGI NOW, I DOUBT THIS'LL LAST MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR.
JUST A RECORD OF THE MATCH WILL BE FINE.
SHION CAN'T DO BYOU-YOMI
WHAT DO YOU SAY, LADIES?

WOW!

I'VE NEVER PLAYED ON SUCH A NICE BOARD BEFORE


IT WAS THE KIND THAT FOLDED UP... YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?
OURS WAS COMPLETELY TRASHED... YOU COULD BARELY SEE THE LINES...

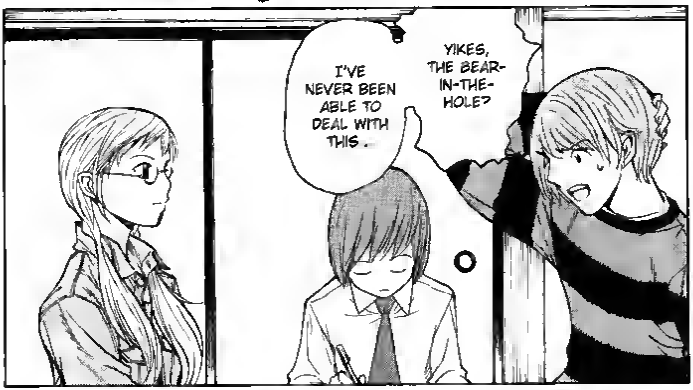
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, IT WAS MISSING A KING...
WE HAD TO USE THE TAB FROM A SODA CAN
I COULDN'T BEAT MAKOTO ONE DAY, AND I GOT SO MAD I THREW IT IN A RIVER!
YASUOKA-SAN,
WILL YOU DO THE TOSS, PLEASE?
ANYWAYS,
I'VE REMINISCED ENOUGH
HEH... IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BECOME A REAL KISHI

Shake shake shake
HAVING SEEN FIRST-HAND HOW IT WAS FOR MY BROTHER-
YEAH, BUT I GAVE UP ON THAT DREAM A LONG TIME AGO.
DID YOU WANT TO TURN PRO WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, SATORU SAN?
Toss!
The toss results in 4 tokins - Sartou-san is Black. Please begin.
Tikatikatika
Tokin = Promoted Pawn

HAHAHA, THANK YOU!
WHEW...
OKAY THEN
LET US BOTH PLAY FAIRLY AND HONOURABLY.

OH, HELLO HANI-MEIJIN!
YOUR BROTHER IS UPSTAIRS.
SATORU'S HERE?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
THEY'RE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR - SAITOU-SAN IS PLAYING A "TEACHING" GAME WITH HIM, I BELIEVE
NO, IT'S JUST...

SATORU HASN'T PLAYED SHOGI IN A LONG, LONG TIME.
IS HE ANY GOOD...?
HE'S NOT REACTING AT ALL, BUT I GET A STRANGE FEELING THAT THERE'S MORE TO HIM...
Tak



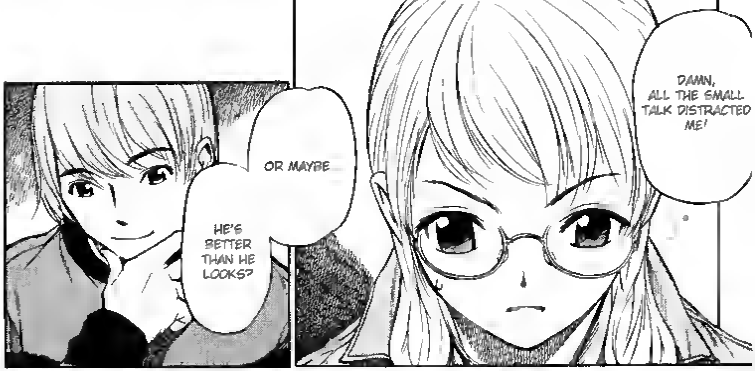
No time. Playing a move in less than one minute, so no time is subtracted from the available time.

AND HE STILL HAS A SOLID SETUP...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S BARELY THINKING ABOUT HIS MOVES...
SO, SAITOU-SAN,
YOUR PARENTS MUST BE KISHI AS WELL, RIGHT?
NO, MY FATHER DOESN'T PLAY ANY MORE,
AND MY MOTHER...
...IS IN THE HOSPITAL

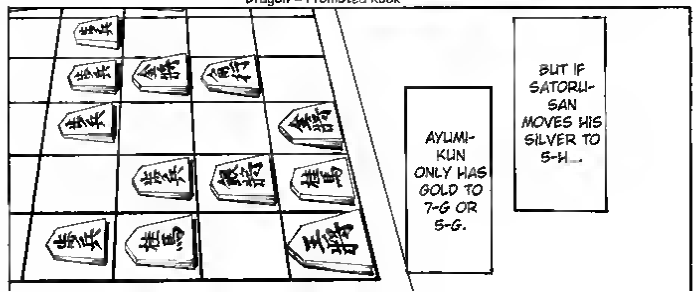
TAK

Tik
IT MUST BE TOUGH, ESPECIALLY WITH THE PAYOUTS FROM THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE STILL BEING SO LOW
Tik
OH, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT
AS I WAS TELLING SHION-SAN YESTERDAY,
MY COMPANY IS LIKELY GOING TO SPONSOR A NEW SHOGI TOURNAMENT
IT'LL BE COMPLETELY OPEN
AMATEURS, PROS, WOMEN MEN... ANYONE AND EVERYONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.
THE ENTRY FEE IS 100,000 YEN... IT MIGHT SEEM STEEP, BUT IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GRAND PRIZE OF FIFTY MILLION

OF COURSE, TO WIN THE WHOLE THING YOU'D EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BEAT MY BROTHER!
FIFTY... MILLION... YEN?
Tik
HORSE TO 2-E...
!!
Horse = Promoted Bishop



Dragon = Promoted Rook



HMM... NOW WHAT...
EITHER WAY, AYUMI-KUN'S IN A TIGHT SPOT...
Tak
MAYBE... THIS?
Gasp
LANCE TO 9-F...
NOT TOO BAD...
IS HE

LANCE TO 9-F?
I WAS WORRIED HE'D TRY HORSE TO 2-E, BUT I GUESS HE HADN'T PLANNED FAR ENOUGH AHEAD
MAYBE HE'S GOT A WEAK END-GAME
TIK
HE MAKES A GOOD SPEED PLAYER, BUT HE DOESN'T READ HIS OPPONENT WELL...
TYPICAL AMATEUR.

TATAKI
AWW, MAN!
RRRGH LANCE TO 9-R? HMM
HMMMMM
DAH, I GIVE UP!
THANK YOU. THAT WAS A GOOD GAME

I THOUGHT I WAS ON THE RIGHT TRACK TOO...
WHERE'D I GO WRONG?
THE LANCE TO 9-F
IF YOU'D MOVED YOUR SILVER TO 5-H, I'D HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE
GASP
AHH, REALLY?
SHOOT, I WAS SO CLOSE!
DARN IT!

HE WAS TESTING ME!!
HE... HE LOST ON PURPOSE!
THANK YOU TOO, SHION-SAN
SORRY I KEEP ROPING YOU INTO THESE IMPROMPTU GAMES
I APPRECIATE THE LESSON, SAITOU-SAN
I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH BUT HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOUR TROUBLE
I HOPE YOU'LL BOTH ENTER THE TOURNAMENT.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

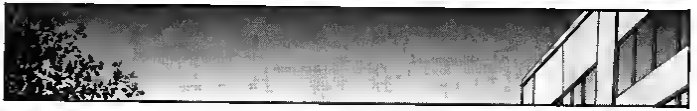
YOU THINK THE TOURNAMENT MIGHT PROVIDE US WITH SOME CLUES?
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THAT THE KILLER WILL EVEN ENTER...
I KNOW.
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PROCEED, EITHER

REMEMBER THE DEATH THREAT SHE RECEIVED BEFORE THE PREVIOUS TOURNAMENT?

IF THAT WAS SENT BY THE SAME PERSON WHO KILLED HER PARENTS, I GUARANTEE HE'LL TRY SOMETHING AGAIN THIS TIME!

AND IF HE DOES,

THIS PIECE WILL BE OUR LAST MOVE.



...WHY WAS HE TESTING ME?
BUT TO WIN IT ALL, I HAVE TO BEAT ONE A-LEVEL KISHI AFTER ANOTHER.
FIFTY MILLION... THAT'S UNREAL...

14TH MOVE END

Wanna walk home together?
HUH?! OH
SURE.

15TH MOVE THE DAY OF CHALLENGE

WE'LL HAVE AN ICE COFFEE AND...
Hot Cocoa!

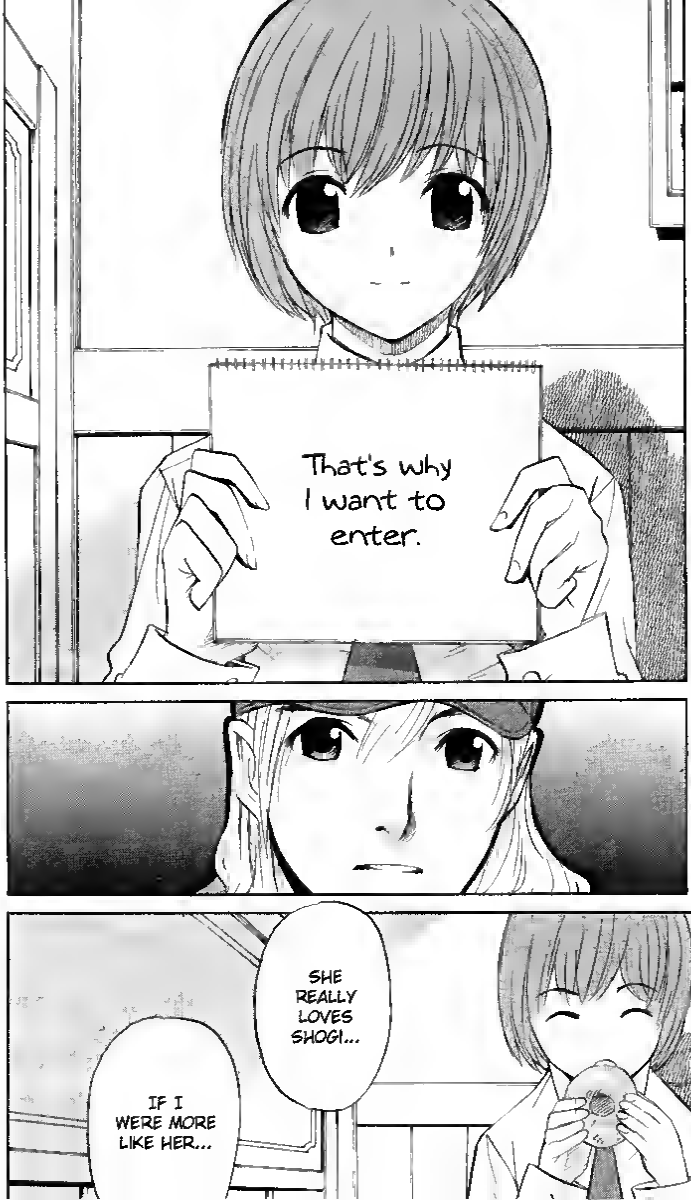
OH DON'T WORRY, IT'S MY TREAT
OOOOKAY, WE'LL SPLIT IT THEN.
SHE'S MORE STUBBORN THAN SHE LOOKS
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

NOT LIKE IT MATTERS, SHE'S ALREADY NOTICED...
I FELT KIND OF WEIRD, SINCE YOU KNOW
You look much better like that

SHION'S BANK BOOK
WHAT WERE YOU WRITING?
How is your mom doing?
A BANK-BOOK, HUH?
THAT'S NICE HOW YOUR MOM LOOKS OUT FOR YOU
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS BORN...
THERE ARE GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS

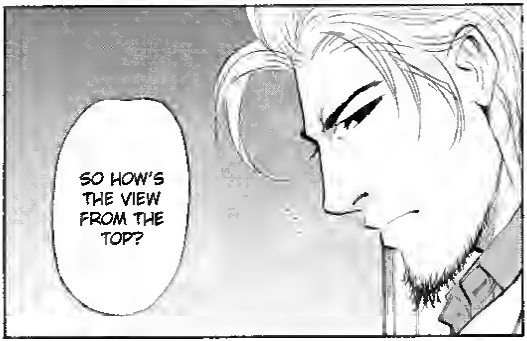
?
SFX: Slip
I haven't recorded it yet, so it'll be okay
ISN'T THAT THE MONEY YOU GOT EARLIER ..?
THANKS, BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS
I WANT TO PAY FOR MY MOM'S MEDICAL BILLS MYSELF
THAT'S WHY I'M DOING THE WHOLE CROSS-DRESSING THING
AND PLAYING SHOGI IN THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

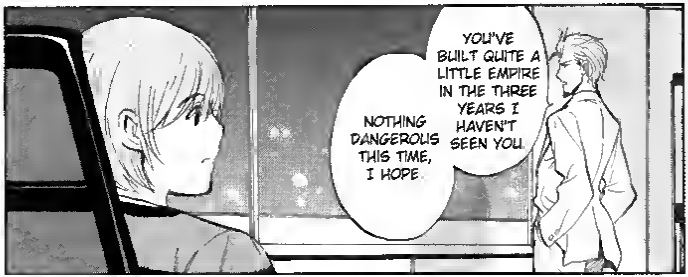
ARE YOU GOING TO ENTER THAT TOURNA-MENT?!
Let's go for broke! We can win the 50 million!
SFX: Flash!
IT COSTS 100,000 YEN JUST TO ENTER, RIGHT?
AND SINCE IT'S TOTALLY OPEN YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAY
EVEN IF YOU FORGET ABOUT HANI-MEIJIN, THERE'LL PROBABLY BE TONS OF HIGH-LEVEL KISHI AND SKILLED AMATEURS, TOO
?
Let's go for broke! We can win the 50 million!
THEY'LL BE A LOT BETTER THAN ANYONE EITHER OF US HAS FACED SO FAR.


That's why I want to enter.
SHE REALLY LOVES SHOGI...
IF I WERE MORE LIKE HER...

What did you think of that last match?
THE LANCE TO 9-F
SEEMED LIKE AN ODD MOVE ...
Rustle rustle
SO YOU THOUGHT SO TOO ?
ガサゴソ
コクリ
Nod

A HANDMADE CLOTH BOARD CUTE
Tik
RIGHT, I THOUGHT HE'D GO FOR SILVER TO 5-H
SO WHAT IF I'D RESPONDED WITH GOLD TO 7-G?
Tik
STILL IN TROUBLE...
I GUESS I REALLY WAS IN A BAD SITUATION ...


SO HOW'S THE VIEW FROM THE TOP?


YOU'VE BUILT QUITE A LITTLE EMPIRE IN THE THREE YEARS I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU.
NOTHING DANGEROUS THIS TIME, I HOPE.

YOU'RE TELLING ME A "TRADITIONAL" BUSINESS CAN PUT UP 50 MILLION YEN AT THE DROP OF A HAT?
PLEASE, A NEWSPAPER COULD AFFORD THAT MUCH

EVERYTHING'S ON THE UP AND UP, I PROMISE.

IT TOOK FIFTY MIL JUST TO PUT A SMILE ON THE ASSOCIATION'S FACE...
YOU THINK THEY DISLIKE ME?
ONLY BECAUSE YOUR RULES WERE SO ABSURD.
CALL ME CRAZY, BUT I BELIEVE YOU CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF A COMPLETELY OPEN TOURNAMENT
WE SHOULD'VE AT LEAST SCREENED OUT THE AMATEURS BASED ON THEIR PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS...
REQUIRING EVERYONE TO PAY AN ENTRY FEE JUST TO PLAY WASN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND - OF COURSE A LOT OF KISHI WOULD OBJECT.
AHH, BUT IF WE DID THAT...

I WOULDN'T HAVE A SHOT AT PLAYING YOU, WOULD I?
WE WERE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SHOGI MATCH.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY
MOM DIED?

I WAS IN 7TH GRADE, YOU WERE IN 9TH.
IF I'D WON, I'D HAVE FINALLY TIED YOU FOR ALL-TIME WINS
TO ME, IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT MATCH EVER.
SATORU 499
MAKOTO 500
GET YOUR STUFF, WE'VE GOTTA GO OUT.
!?
I SEE... OKAY.
ARE YOU NUTS, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME!

SATORU...
MOM'S DEAD.
HEART FAILURE FROM SEVERE STRESS
SHE ESSENTIALLY WORKED HERSELF TO DEATH

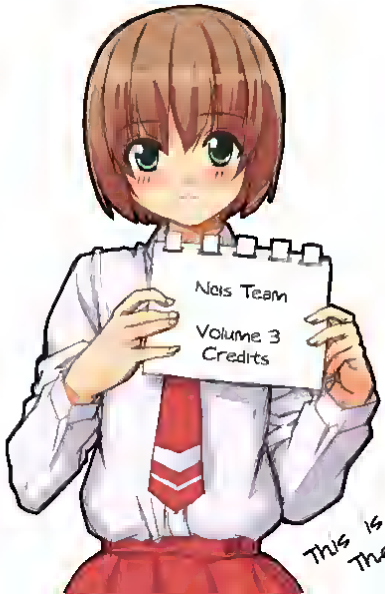
OUR FATHER'S NO LONGER WITH US.
HE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT YEARS AGO.
HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR FATHER?
OH, GEEZ... THERE'S A TON OF PAPERWORK TO FILL OUT.
YOU'RE THE OLDER SON, RIGHT? I'M AFRAID THE RESPONSIBILITY FALLS TO YOU.

BISHOP TO 2-E.
THAT'S MY MOVE FOR OUR GAME.
GOOD ONE, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT THIS WHOLE TIME
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, YOU GOTTA MAKE YOUR MOVE.

HMM?
SATORU..
TAKE YOUR TURN!
ARE YOU GIVING UP?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

COME BACK AND PLAY!
...
YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED SHOGI WITH ME SINCE THAT DAY.
AND I ENDED UP QUITTING ALL TOGETHER.
YOU MUST THINK IT'S MY FAULT ABOUT MOM, HUH?
NO...
FATE IS NEVER ANYONE'S FAULT.

BESIDES, SATORU...
YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE
THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT MOVE.



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This is a MQ release at best!!! The HQ release will come after I scan the tank of volume 3.

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Join today ^_^

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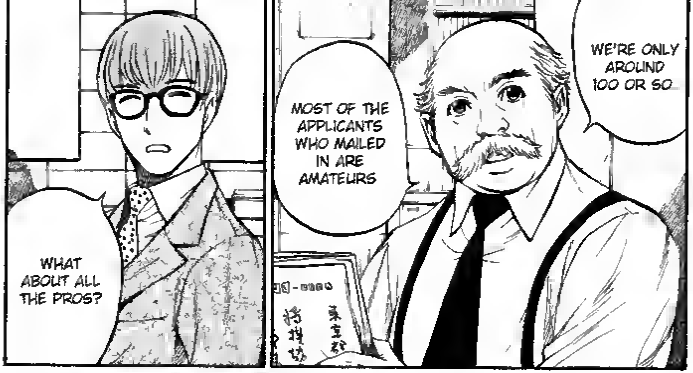
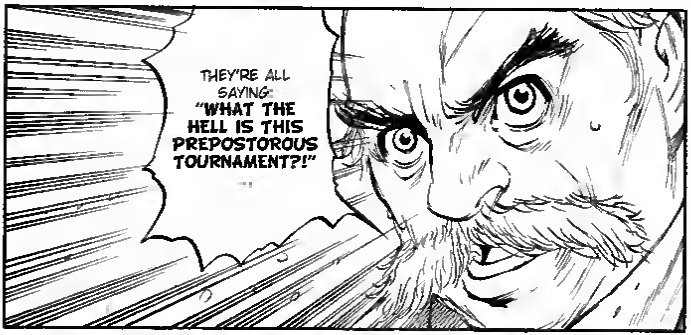
16TH MOVE — THE DOOR TO DREAMS

Sponsored by: H&K Bank Inc. Digitell-Fone Natl. Shogi Association
THE AMA-PRO OPEN TOURNAMENT
WE WILL SEE WHO THE BEST REALLY IS.
No restrictions!
Grand prize is 50,000,000 YEN!
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
HOW ARE WE DOING ON APPLICANTS, FURUTA-SAN?

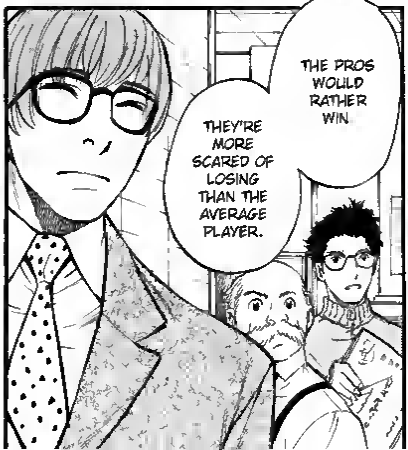

WE'RE ONLY AROUND 100 OR SO.
MOST OF THE APPLICANTS WHO MAILED IN ARE AMATEURS
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PROS?


THEY'RE ALL SAYING:
"WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PREPOSTOROUS TOURNAMENT?!"

THEY'RE ANGRY TO SAY THE LEAST.
"PREPOS-TEROUS?!" HOW DARE THEM!
WITH A CHANCE TO WIN FIFTY MILLION YEN, THEY SHOULD BE ECSTATIC!
YOU DO KNOW THAT EVEN THE MOST OUTMATCHED FIGHTER HAS A "PUNTER'S CHANCE"?
SFX: WHAM

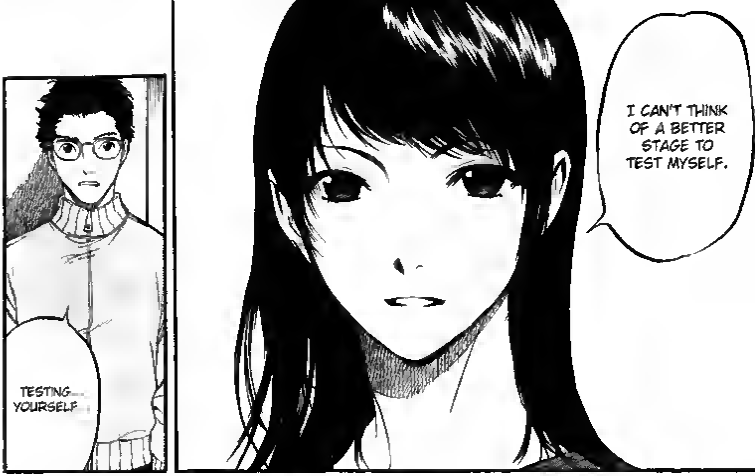
YEAH, WHO KNOWS WHAT PEOPLE WOULD SAY
IF THE A-LEAGUE KISHI LOST TO A KID LIKE ME... OR EVEN WORSE, AN UNRANKED AMATEUR?
AH... SO THAT'S IT...

NO, NO! MOST OF US ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME SO MANY NEW PLAYERS INTO OUR WORLD OF SHOGI!
Of course we are!


THE PROS WOULD RATHER WIN.
THEY'RE MORE SCARED OF LOSING THAN THE AVERAGE PLAYER.

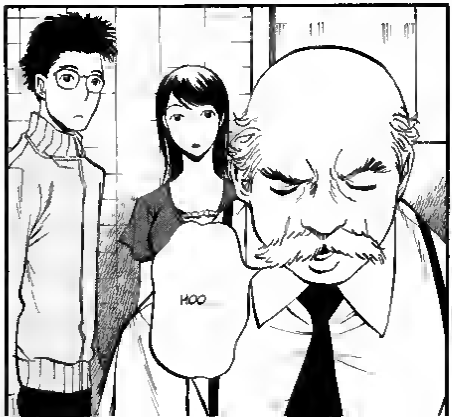
I SUPPOSE IT IS MORE FUN TO WATCH A HIGHLY SKILLED OPPONENT LOSE TO AN UNDERDOG

HELLO NIKAIDOU-SAN!
YOU LOOK JUST AS BEAUTIFUL IN CASUAL AS YOU DO IN UNI-FORM
SO YOU DECIDED NOT TO GO TO COLLEGE?
NO.
FROM NOW ON HEREAF-TER, MY FOCUS IS STRICTLY ON SHOGI
THAT'S WHY I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT THE UPCOMING TOURNAMENT.


TESTING... YOURSELF
I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER STAGE TO TEST MYSELF.

I'M OFF!
I HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH SATORU-SAN

I'VE JUST BEEN TELLING EVERYONE HOW I HOPED EVERYONE HERE WOULD JOIN!
I'LL BE WORKING TWICE AS HARD JUST TO MAKE SURE ALL OF THIS EFFORT DOESN'T GO TO WASTE!


HOO

I'M SURE THAT HE THINKS...
"AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE MONEY, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS."
HANI-MEIJIN ACTS LIKE HE TRUSTS HIM AS WELL, WHICH MAKES THINGS WORSE...
"ACTS ...?"
YOU'RE THE FIRST ENTRANT REPRESENTING THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE
YOU SAID YOU CAME TO APPLY, NIKAIDOU-SAN?
HUH?
OH, YES
REALLY?
WHAT ABOUT SHION-CHAN?

SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO PARTICIPATE
AH..
THE DEADLINE IS NOT FOR ANOTHER TWO DAYS.
ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN TOO, HISATANI-SAN?
WHA-? OH UH, I-
"I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY 100,000 YEN!!"
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER YESTERDAY AND THEN-
I'M IN, TOO!

I GUESS SEEING YOUR ENTHUSIASM GOT ME FIRED UP
I JUST BLURTED IT OUT... SHIT.
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
OH?
THIS IS A CHANCE FOR ME TO TEST MYSELF.
'ATTABOY!
SFX: FLOP
I'LL SCROUNGE UP THE ENTRY FEE NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
YOUNG MEN LIKE YOU NEED TO EMBRACE YOUR PASSION, NOT HIDE FROM IT!
BESIDES, THOSE DAMN PROMOTERS WON'T GET OFF MY BACK BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PROS!
HEH... WELL, I-

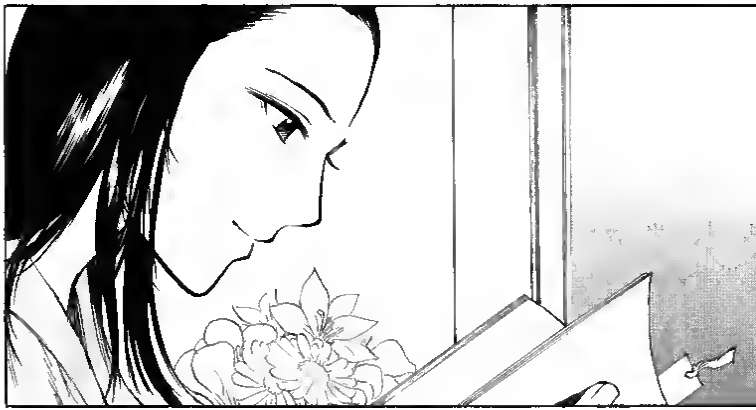
EVEN IF YOU DRAW KAMIZONO-SENSEI IN THE FIRST ROUND...
ASK HIM TO KICK YOUR ASS!
It'll be a learning experience!
HE'S USUALLY SO POLITE...

★ 35 000
★ 247,61

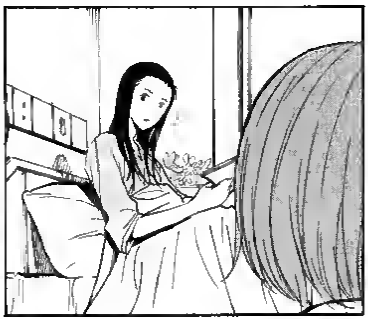
THERE'S ENOUGH FOR AYUMI-KUN TOO...
BUT I WONDER IF HE WOULD ACCEPT IT...

SAITOU-SAN?
THERE ARE TWO, WHICH ONE ARE YOU?
SIGN: HOSPITAL
AH, AYUMI-KUN'S MOTHER, I THINK?
SHE'S IN THE EAST WING.
GO TO THE STAIRS AT THE BACK, GO UP ONE FLOOR, AND IT WILL BE ROOM #2.

E - 2



Hello



ARE YOU ONE OF AYUMI'S FRIENDS?
Yes. My name is Yasuoka Shion
SHION-SAN..
WHAT A PRETTY NAME
ガサゴソ
SFX: SHUFFLE RUSTLE
AYUMI WON'T BE COMING BY UNTIL THIS EVENING...
FOR HIM? WHAT COULD IT BE...?
REALLY IMPORTANT!

SFX TOOOT
IS IT A LOVE LETTER?
OH DEAR, I'M SO SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMBARRASS YOU!
DO YOU KNOW HIM FROM SCHOOL?
OH YEAH. AYUMI-KUN'S MOM DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT HIM PLAYING SHOGI.
He's always helping me with things.

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU WERE THE ONE HELPING HIM.
ARE YOU SURE? HE CAN BE UNRELIABLE SOMETIMES.
YOU ARE ALWAYS SENDING ME FLOWERS HERE, AREN'T YOU?
SHION-SAN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

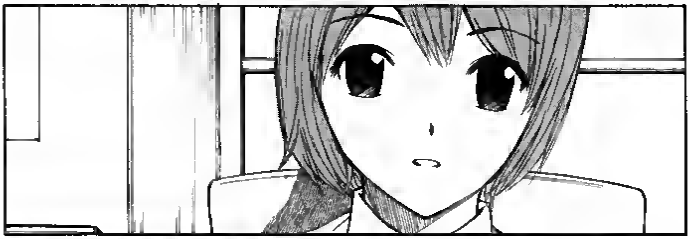
When will you be able to go home?
HOME...
SOMEDAY...
WHEN I GET WELL ENOUGH TO LEAVE...
AYUMI... AYUMI COULD FINALLY GET TO LIVE FOR HIMSELF...

POOR AYUMI-KUN'S MOTHER
SHION!
WHY DO YOU KEEP SPACING OUT?
TODAY'S THE DEADLINE FOR TOURNAMENT APPLICATIONS, RIGHT?
I'm going to go to the association building after school

I'D RATHER GO WITH YOU MYSELF...
JUST BE CAREFUL WITH ALL THAT MONEY.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING A BIT DOWN EVER SINCE YOU CAME BACK HOME LAST NIGHT.
REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS TALK TO US IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING
WELL YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER .
I know!

GOOD... TAKE THIS
A CELL PHONE?
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT
BUT A MOTHER ALWAYS WORRIES ABOUT HER DAUGHTER
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU WHENEVER I NEED TO
CONSIDER THIS A GOOD LUCK CHARM FROM ME TO YOU

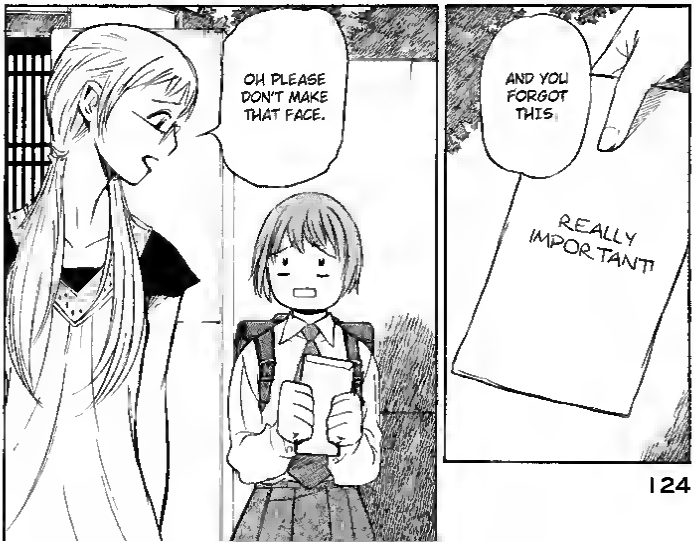
I DON'T EVER WANT YOU BE SCARED AGAIN

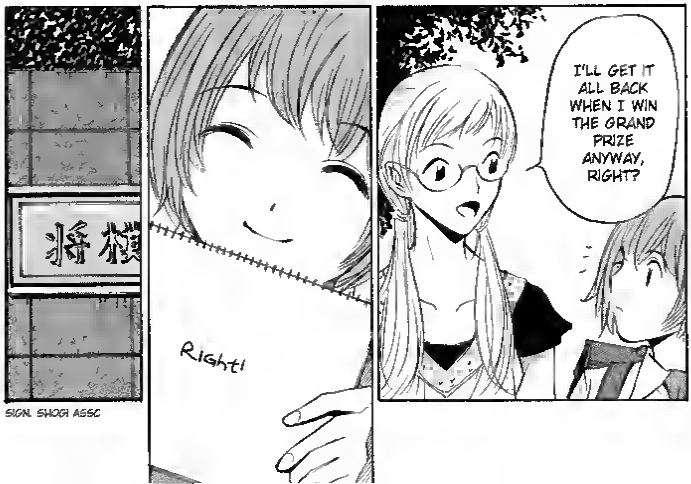


THANKS MOM.
SFX CLUTCH

GOING TO THE "SHOGI" PLACE AGAIN SHION?
YOU NEVER HANG OUT WITH US ANY MORE!
HEY, SHION.
IS THAT GIRL YOUR FRIEND?
DOES SHE PLAY SHOGI TOO?
HER OUTFIT IS SO CUTE.

I TALKED TO MY MOM YESTERDAY
THANKS FOR SENDING THOSE FLOWERS
25th (Wed)
Flowers
Cocoa
Donuts
500 yen


AND YOU FORGOT THIS
REALLY IMPORTANT!
OH PLEASE DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.



SIGN: SHOGI ASSC

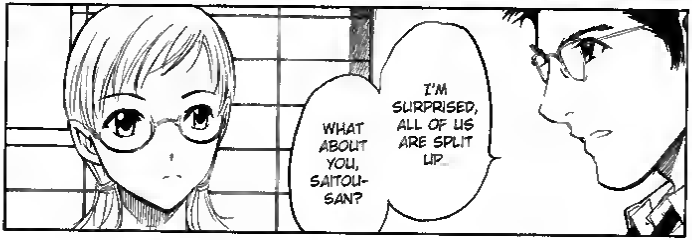
SIGN: INFO DESK
受付
WOW! THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE!
THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED LOTS TO ORGANIZE THE PARTICIPANTS.
HM?
YOU'RE PLAYING TOO, EH?
YEAH.

SO YOU'RE YASUOKA'S KID?
WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU TWO ARE MADE OF
EVERYONE HOLDING AN ENTRANCE TICKET, PLEASE WRITE YOUR APPLICATION NUMBER ON THE REVERSE SIDE AND HAND THEM TO ME!
DO NOT PLACE THEM IN THE BOX AS AN EMPLOYEE MUST CONFIRM THEIR VALIDITY BEFORE-HAND!
INFO DESK
PARTICIPANTS

WHAT NUMBER DID YOU GET, HISATANI-SAN?
42, I'M IN THE A-BLOCK
95
OH, GOOD. I'M 95, I'LL BE IN THE B-BLOCK.
WE HAVE 162 ENTRANTS OVERALL.
I WAS STARTING TO GET WORRIED, BUT EVERYONE FINALLY PULLED THROUGH.
LOOKS LIKE ALL THE PROS DECIDED TO SHOW UP FINALLY.
THEY MUST ALL BE THINKING "WHAT'LL PEOPLE THINK IF I DON'T ENTER?"
TOURNAMENTS LIKE THIS USUALLY END UP PUTTING STUDENTS AGAINST THEIR TEACHERS, AS WELL AS THEIR CLASSMATES, DON'T THEY?

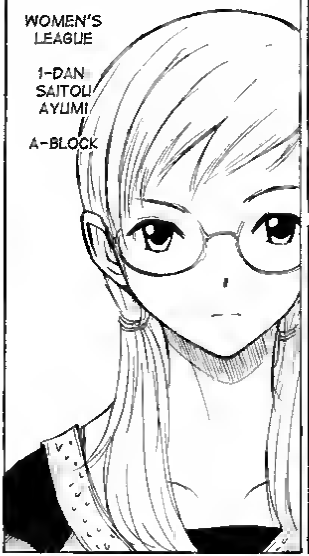
THAT'S ONE OF THE PERKS.
YES. EVERY MATCH IS RANDOMIZED HERE.
A
SO EACH BLOCK STARTS WITH 54 PEOPLE
2
SHION!
THAT'S HARSH...
YOU DON'T QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT UNLESS YOU MAKE IT PAST THE THIRD ROUND...

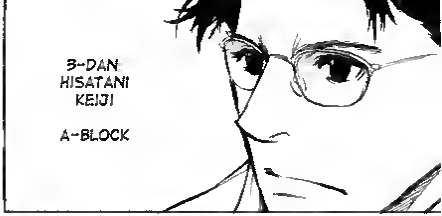
137
C-BLOCK, HUH?
WHAT'D YOU DRAW?

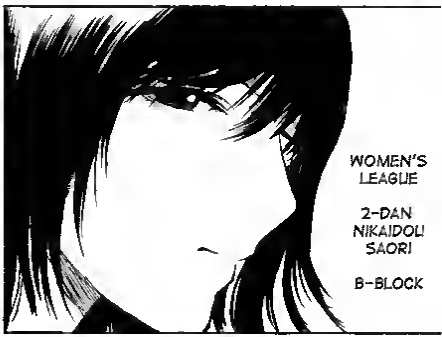

I'M SURPRISED, ALL OF US ARE SPLIT UP.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAITOU-SAN?

A-BLOCK. SAME AS ME.
50
.....
WHO CARES IF WE'RE IN THE SAME GROUP OR NOT?

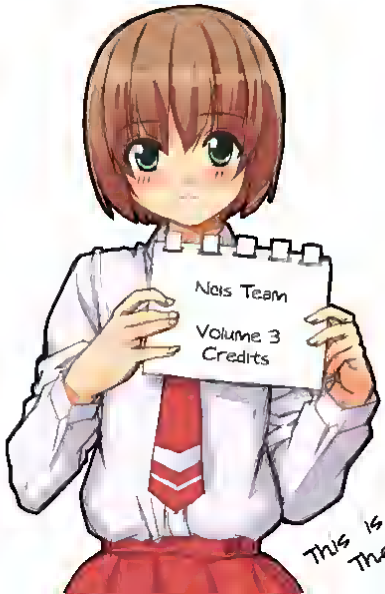
WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY EACH OTHER EVENTUALLY IF WE KEEP WINNING
THE CURTAIN HAS BEEN LIFTED. THE SHOGI WORLD'S FIRST EVER "AMA-PRO OPEN TOURNAMENT" DISCREETLY BEGAN.
9-DAN KAMIZONO OSAMU
B-BLOCK
8-DAN YASUOKA SHINJI
A-BLOCK







16TH
MOVE
END



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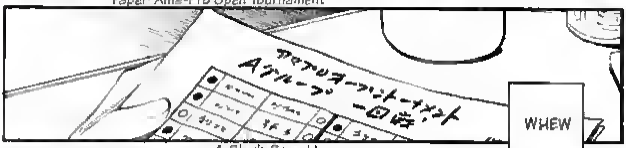
This is a MQ release at best!!! The HQ release will come after I scan the tank of volume 3.

ncis scans
www.ncismanga.net
Join today ^_^

"LITTLE FANFARE...?"
DIDN'T THEY HAVE SOME KIND OF OPENING CEREMONY?
THIS IS A BIG TOURNAMENT, RIGHT?
NOT UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR THE FINAL ROUNDS, APPARENTLY.
THE WEAKER COMPETITORS GET NOTHING..
I THINK IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY SMUG. WERE YOU THAT EXCITED?
YEAH, JUST KNOWING MY OWN MONEY WAS ON THE LINE WAS KIND OF A RUSH.
YOU SHOULD'VE CAME AND WATCHED, SHION.
I WANTED YOU TO SEE ME SQUASH THAT OTHER GUY!

Note: She has sparkles in original raw so we kept them as asterisks

Paper Ama-Pro Open Tournament



A-Block, Round 1

SHE IS IMPROVING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS AS WELL.
HER OPPONENT WAS A NEWLY-PROMOTED 4TH-DAN, AND SAITOU-SAN TOTALLY OUT-CLASSED HER.

WHEN YOU BECOME A 4TH-DAN, A PRO, IT SIGNIFIES YOU HAVING A WELL-ROUNDED, COMPLETE SKILL SET.
SHE STILL WOULD'VE GONE THROUGH YEARS OF TOUGH MATCHES AT THE SHOURE! CAMP.
WELL, IF SHE WAS A 4TH-DAN, SHE MUST'VE BEEN YOUNG TOO, RIGHT?
SHION.. I'M GLAD YOU'VE GOT HER AS A RIVAL.
THE FIRST ROUND FOR B-BLOCK IS TOMORROW... SHION'S IN C-BLOCK, SO HER FIRST MATCH IS THE DAY AFTER.
JUST DON'T LET HER BEAT YOU TOO!
I'll do my best!

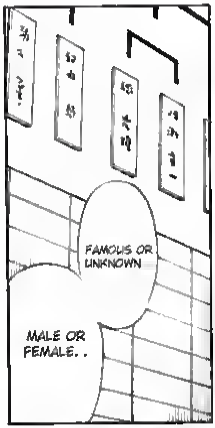
IF WE BOTH MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY EACH OTHER!
THAT YOU AND SHION ARE IN DIFFERENT GROUPS
I'M SO RELIEVED
SO IMMATURE
GAHAHA
HAHAHA!
AHAHAH
BUT FIRST I'M GONNA POUND HISATANI INTO A BLOODY PULP!
I REALLY PLAYED WELL TODAY.
I KNOW I JOINED THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE TO EARN MONEY...

BUT...
MY GAME'S IMPROVING!
♪♪♪
BEEP

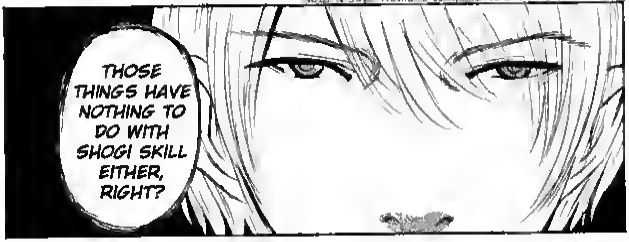
THE HOSPI -TAL?!
SHOGI ASSOCIATION
Yasuoka Shion
Ooda Takeshi
OODA TAKESHI... NEVER HEARD OF HIM.
HE MUST BE AN AMATEUR.
HEY, SHION-SAN!
ARIMA

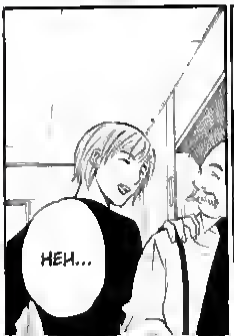
GUESS WE'RE IN THE SAME GROUP.
HRMMM...
HANI
SATORI
IF WE EACH WIN TWO TIMES, WE'LL GET TO PLAY EACH OTHER.
I WOULD SAVE THAT KIND OF TALK UNTIL AFTER YOU WIN YOUR FIRST MATCH
I can't wait!

Nice to meet you!
YOU'RE YASUOKA-SAN?
I'M OODA WE'LL BE FACING EACH OTHER.
SHE'S MUCH CUTER THAN THE PICTURES WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE, ISN'T SHE?
Nice to
WHEN WE WERE DRAWING NUMBERS YESTERDAY, MY AMATEUR CHAMPION FRIEND GOT PRETTY JEALOUS WHEN HE SAW I WAS IN C-BLOCK.
CUTENESS AND SHOGI SKILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER.
HUH?



Note: It says Women's leaguers to show his sexist thoughts





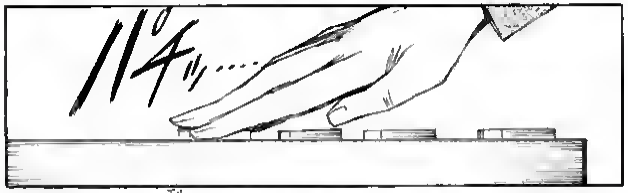
HE LOOKS CONFIDENT,
BUT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT THIS TOURNAMENT WILL BE.
Do you know who he was?
NO CLUE. I FIGURED HE WAS A FAN OF YOURS, THE WAY HE WAS GUSHING OVER YOU.
He's Hani-Meijin's younger brother, and this tournament's main sponsor
EXCUSE ME, YASUOKA-SAN?
...

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT SAITOU-SAN SINCE HER MATCH DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
DARN IT...
IF SHE DOESN'T GET HER ACT TOGETHER, SHE'LL END UP FORFEITING HER MATCH
C1 BLOCK ROUND 1
AYUMI-KUN...

THE FIRST THREE ROUNDS WILL USE A SHOGI CLOCK
EACH COMPETITOR HAS THREE HOURS ONCE ALL THEIR TIME IS USED UP, SUBSEQUENT MOVES MUST BE MADE IN ONE MINUTE OR LESS
I'M BLACK.
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S PREOCCUPIED WITH SOMETHING
I GUESS SHE'S ONLY A BIG DEAL BECAUSE OF HER LOOKS

LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST.

I'LL TOY AROUND WITH HER FOR A WHILE.


パチ…

Tik

I HOPE HIS MOM'S NOT...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO AYUMI-KUN?
Gasp
IT'S YOUR TURN KID!
I HAVE TO FOCUS
PAWN TO 8-F?!
THAT MAKES SENSE AGAINST A RANGING ROOK, BUT AGAINST A STATIC ROOK PLAYER LIKE ME THAT SEEMS LIKE A BAD MOVE...

AH HA
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK HUH?

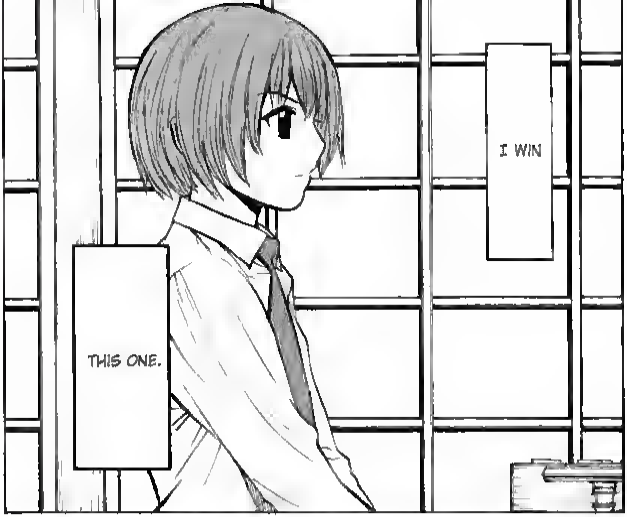
HOW ABOUT THIS!!

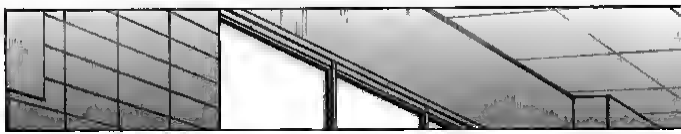
TAK!
HMPH!
TAK!
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SHE WAS DAYDREAMING, SHE STARTS PLAYING SPEED SHOGI
HE THINKS THAT A FEW NON-STANDARD MOVES WILL CONFUSE ME AND LEAVE ME VULNERABLE
SHE AIN'T SO CUTE!
SHE'S JUST A WOMEN'S LEAGUER. THAT SHOULD BE ALL IT TAKES, RIGHT?

Tik
Tik
THERE WE GO
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO MOVE THAT PAWN TO 8-F
Tik
Tak
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO MESS HER UP THE WHOLE TIME!
WHY IS SHE STAYING SO CALM...
Sigh
Sweat

BISHOP TO 1-C?
I HAVE TO MOVE KING TO 5-H, BUT THEN SHE'LL MOVE HER ROOK TO 3-E, AND...

URK

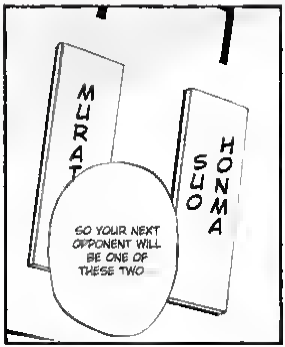

I WIN
THIS ONE.



IF YOU WANTED A DRINK YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED ME, I'D HAVE BROUGHT IT TO YOU
AREN'T YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH?

SHION-CHAN!

WOW, ALREADY?
Nope, my match is finished
SO THAT'S ...
A PRO KISHI.
TOO BAD
YASUOKA SHION
TOODA TAKESHI


MURATA
SUO
HONMA
SO YOUR NEXT OPPONENT WILL BE ONE OF THESE TWO...

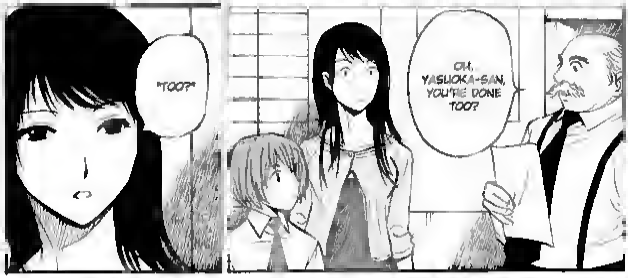
I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND REALLY STUDY YOUR SHOGI
YOU GOT A LAME OPPONENT.

HONMA... DUNNO WHO THAT IS.
I GUESS HE'S AN AMATEUR?
THAT MEANS MURATA 9TH-DAN WILL WIN...

MY NEXT OPPONENT IS KANZONO 8TH-DAN
I HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO STOP THE MATCH DUE TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
NAH JUST K ORING

HE'S A VETERAN WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. HE'LL BE TOUGH
YOU'LL HAVE FUN THOUGH.

SAORI-SAN'S REALLY FIRED UP.
NOW I WANT TO PLAY KAMIZONO 5TH-DAN TOO!


"TOO?"
OH, YASUOKA-SAN, YOU'RE DONE TOO?

I'VE SEEN MORIYAMA 5TH-DAN BEAT HANI-NII IN SPEED SHOGI!
BUT...

HANI SATORU
SATORU-SAN WON?!

IT'S LIKE YASUOKA 6TH-DAN SAID.. THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THIS TOURNAMENT IS DIFFERENT.
ONE MINUTE IT LOOKED EVEN, THE NEXT, MORIYAMA 9TH-DAN HAD LOST...
SATORU-SAN CONTROLLED THE PACE FROM START TO FINISH.
I KNEW IT... HE'S GOOD...
HONESTLY, I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD SURPRISE ME AT THIS POINT.
MURATA 9TH-DAN!
Stompastompastompa
ドガガガ

MURATA 9TH-DAN'S MATCH WITH THE AMATEUR HONMA... IS OVER.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
OH, FURUTA-SAN...
M-MURATA LOST?!
Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
HONMA SUO IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE AMATEUR KISHI...
YES, BUT STILL...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID NOTHING ELSE COULD SURPRISE YOU?

HE'S JUST A 5TH GRADER.

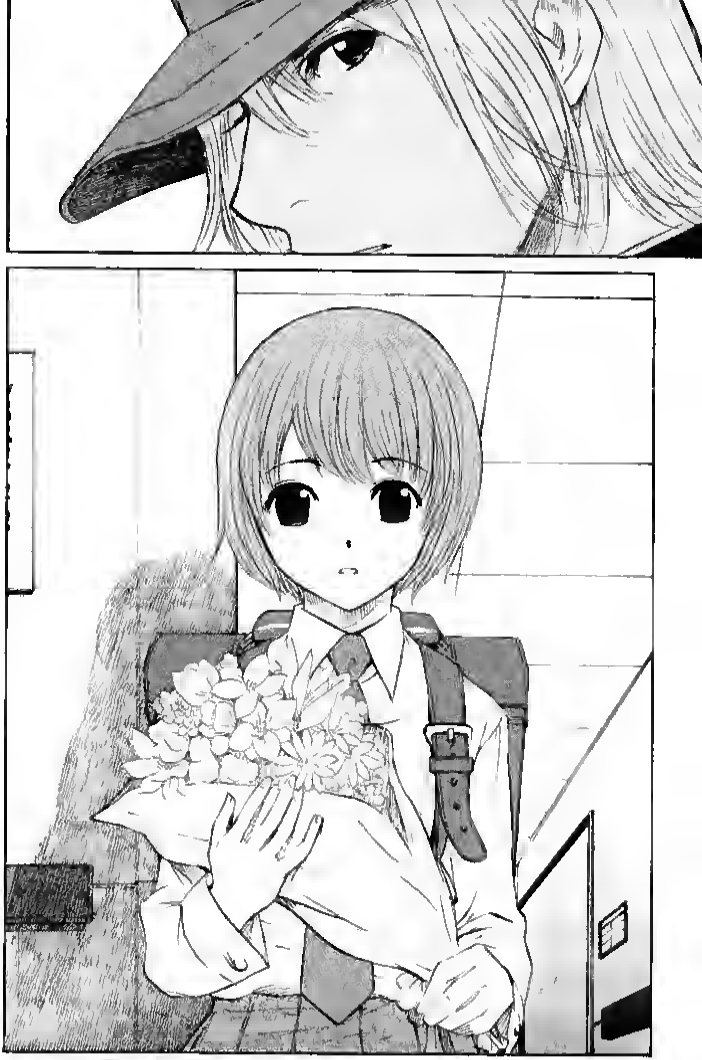
THAT MEANS HE'S YOUR NEXT OPPONENT SHION-CHAN

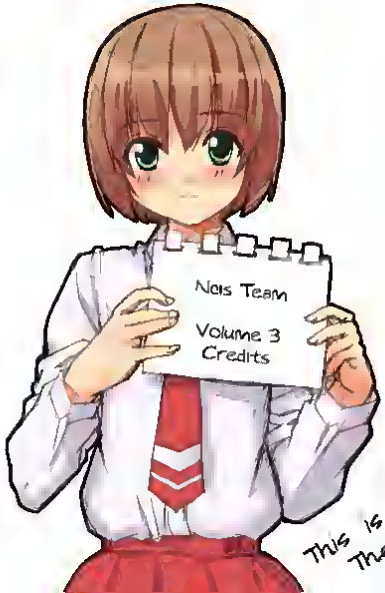
A FIFTH GRADER WON AGAINST MURATA 9TH-DAN?

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
FIRST MORIYAMA 5TH-DAN, NOW MURATA 9TH-DAN...
A LOT OF REPORTERS ARE THERE TOO. IT'S GETTING PRETTY CRAZY
THE PRO KISHI ARE GATHERING TO ANALYZE THE MATCH...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I'M UP AGAINST... I HAVE TO KEEP PLAYING MY WAY!
WANNA CHECK IT OUT?

I SEE.
I'LL MAKE SURE TO HAVE MY PHONE WITH ME AND ON AT ALL TIMES.
DOCTOR!
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY MOM!
I PROMISE, I'LL GET THE MONEY!
SO PLEASE
PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN FOR HER.

...
WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS.





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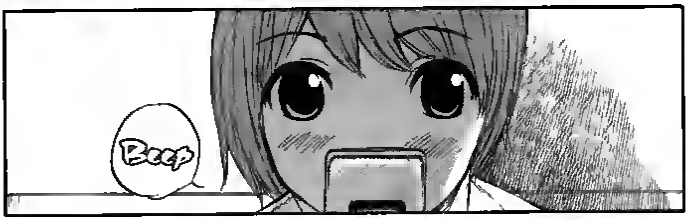
This is a MQ release at best!!! The HQ release will come after I scan the tank of volume 3.

Even though it's a lie...
...it is a lie from the heart.
Chapter 18

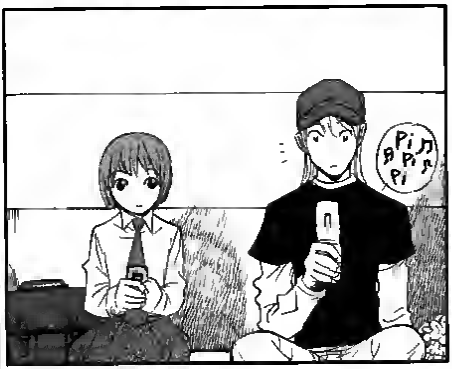
Waiting for the news on mother's condition,
all happiness was lost as I prepared my heart for the truth.
And this was the truth...
THE SURGERY DIDN'T GO VERY WELL.
IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEMPT ANOTHER SURGERY... HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE EXPENSIVE...
What about the knockout round? Furuta-san is worried about you!

THERE'S NO PROBLEM. I WOULD HAVE ALWAYS KEPT IN TOUCH.
AH IS THAT SO? SORRY.
BUT, BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES, I KEPT IN CONTACT.
?
IS THAT YOUR CELL PHONE?

Beep
Beep
THEN, WHY DON'T WE EXCHANGE NUMBERS.
This is a good luck charm!


Beep

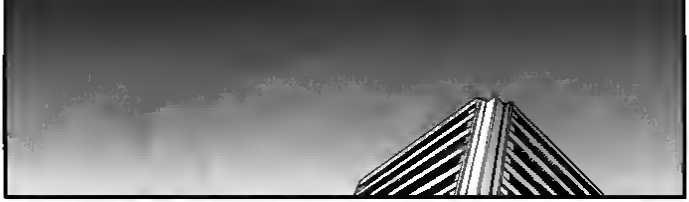
IF THERE'S ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND, JUST SEND ME A TEXT!
-SHION


Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi

THANK YOU.
安岡信次
WOW! THE LAST TWO GAMES HAD SWIFT BATTLES AND ENDINGS!
SACHIKO YASUOKA, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!
IT'S GREAT TO BE ABLE TO BE DECLARED THE WINNER SO EASILY...
I'M NOT SURE THAT WE OLD FOLKS ARE SUITED FOR THESE KNOCKOUT ROUNDS.

AH-
CAN I BOTHER YOU GUYS FOR A MO-MENT?
AH, YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF SHION.
N-NO I HAVEN'T I'VE BEEN...
ACTUA-LLY...
SH-ON HAS BEEN
TAKING CARE OF
ME
OH!
AFTER BEATING INOUE ON THE 4TH STAGE, KIMURA WON ON THE 5TH STAGE, TOO?
AYUMI SAITO OF GROUP A HAS 50 TURNS
SO SHE WINS...
HMM...?
HER ABILITY MUST BE QUITE GOOD.

SHINJI YASUOKA
AYUMI SAITO
WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM YOU IN THIS COMPETITION?
BUT... SHION WILL BE THERE TO CHEER FOR YOU.
I'LL BE EXPECTING THE SAME FROM YOU



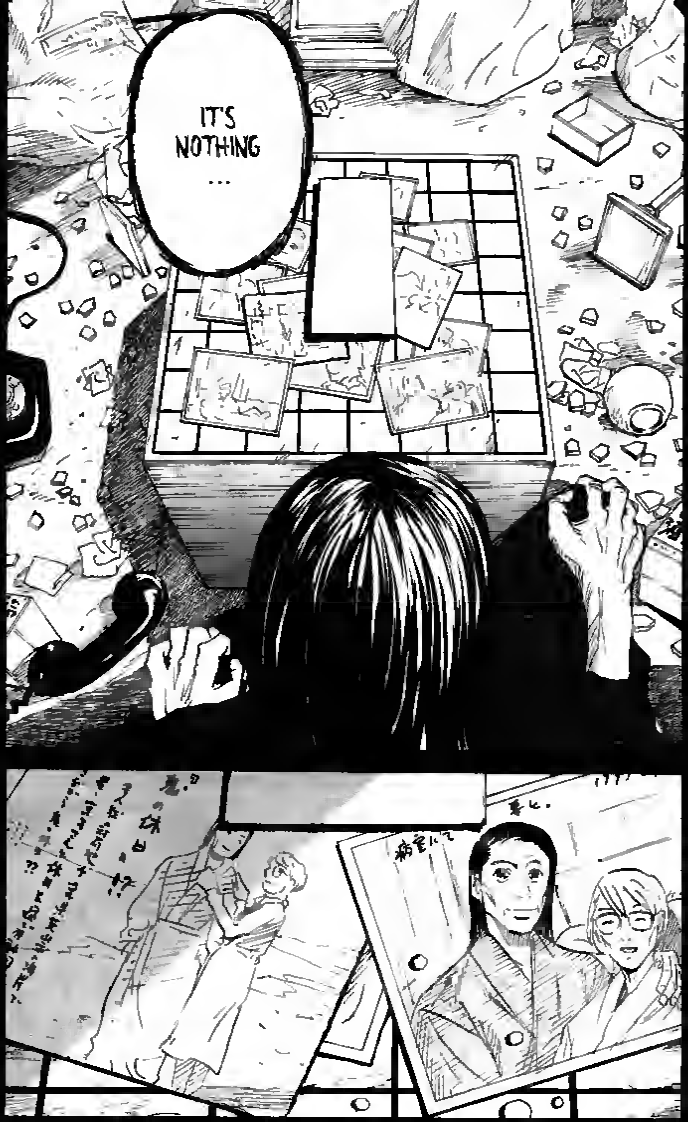
IS THAT SO? EVEN KIMURA WON?
THOSE PEOPLE MUST BE GETTING NERVOUS
神国

BEATING SHINJI WON'T BE SO EASY!

WILL IT BE SHINJI YASUOKA NE

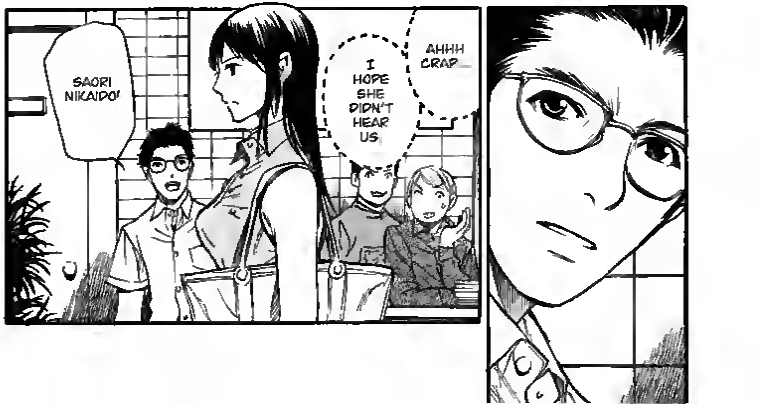
TOMORROW I'M GOING TO CALL SAORI NIKAIDO TO A GAME.
I KNOW!
IS SAORI NIKAIDO STRONG?
OH REALLY
WILL I BE IN DANGER?
YES, SHE IS STRONG!
NO! HOW WOULD THAT BE POSSIBLE?

WHEN MURATA LOST TO THAT KID, THERE WAS A HUGE COMMOTION! THE TV AND NEWSPAPERS WERE ALL OVER IT.
IT'LL BE THE SAME WITH OSAMU KAMIZONO, OR SOMETHING SIMILAR
WHAT-EVER!
THAT'S SO BORING.
.....
IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION,
YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE WHO'S STRONG.
NO
NOTHING.
IF I LOSE TOMOR-ROW
WHAT?


IT'S NOTHING ...

IT SEEMS THAT AYUMI SAITO IS QUITE LUCKY.
EVEN THOUGH SHE DID WIN ONE OF THE GAMES QUITE BEAUTIFULLY...
BUT SHE'LL BE PLAYING AGAINST OSAMU KAMIZONO ON THE SECOND ROUND, SO I FEEL BAD FOR HER.
神園修
二階堂沙織

OSAMU KAMIZONO ISN'T SOMEONE WHO'LL GO EASY ON SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A GIRL.
EVEN IF HE WENT EASY, SHE STILL HAS NO CHANCE.
HMM...


SAORI NIKAIDO!
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T HEAR US.
AHHH CRAP...

LET'S ALL WORK HARD FOR THE 2ND ROUND---
.....

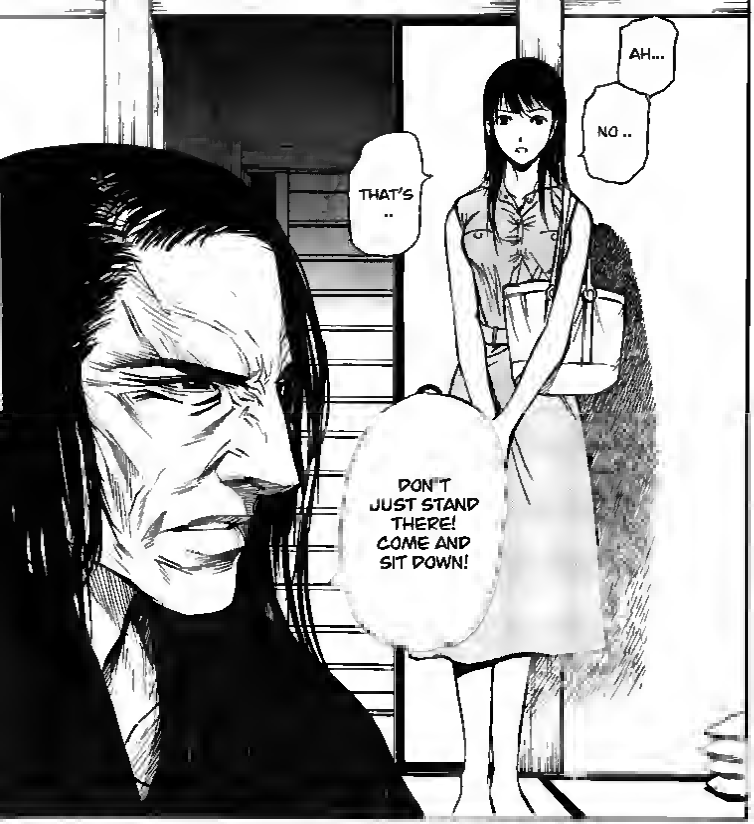
HAH...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG! I WILL DEFINITELY SHOW YOU I CAN WIN.
I WANT TO WIN SO THAT I CAN PLAY AGAINST YOU!

SAORI WHY ARE YOU LIKE THAT?
HMM?
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME GOING AGAINST A MAN IN A COMPETITION?
YEAH

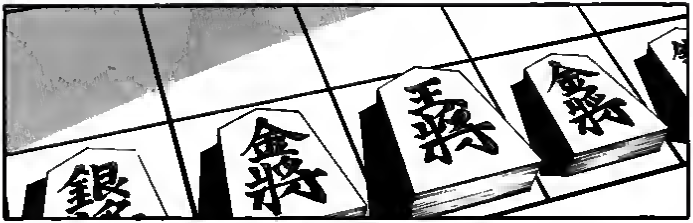
ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IS FOR YOU TO PLAY THE RIGHT MOVES. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
BUT I WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW I'VE GROWN
.....
YOUR GAME WITH ME CAN WAIT UNTIL LATER!
YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE IN FRONT OF YOU.
I AM A LITTLE NERVOUS BUT...
BUT, BECAUSE I WANT TO PLAY AGAINST HANI, I WON'T LOSE!
REALLY? ME?
IT'S ALRIGHT. THERE'S STILL TIME. I'LL SEE YOU AFTER I'M IN FRONT OF THE SHOGI TABLE...

!!
OSAMU!

GOOD MORNING, LITTLE LADY
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING QUITE CONFIDENT


AH...
NO ..
THAT'S ..
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! COME AND SIT DOWN!

AH..
OK...


銀
金将
王将
金将

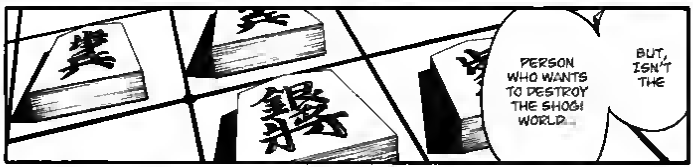
SAORI...
MUST HAVE ALREADY LET OSAMU GET UNDER HER SKIN...

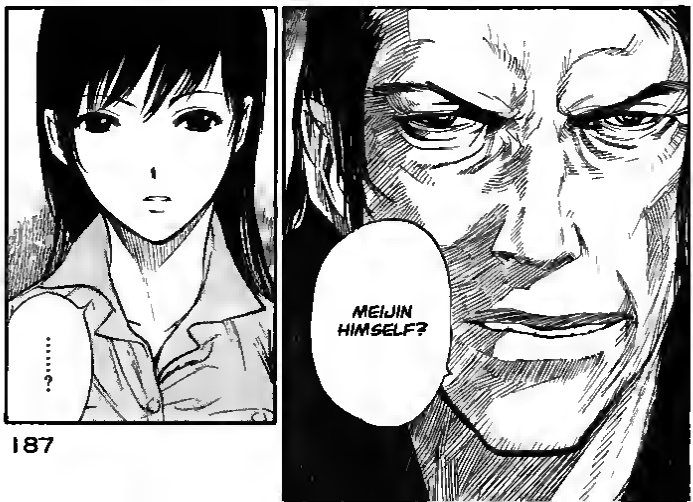
SORRY,
CAN WE TALK A BIT BEFORE THE GAME?

I CAN'T DECIDE IF I'M LUCKY OR NOT...
WOW, LOOK AT SOMEONE LIKE ME BEING ABLE TO SIT AND PLAY WITH MEIJIN
PLAYING AGAINST MEIJIN IS ALREADY SUCH AN HONOR...
I WOULDN'T DARE...
AS LONG AS YOU PUT YOUR SPIRIT INTO DEFEATING ME!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE OPEN NATURE OF THIS COMPETITION
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS LUCK...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! JOINING THIS COMPETITION WAS DEFINITELY WORTH IT...
HA HA...
THEN...
AH! OF COURSE I'D BE HAPPY TO.
IF POSSIBLE, COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH AS A KEEPSAKE?

I'LL BEAT THIS GUY QUICKLY.
THEN I'LL GO LOOK INTO SAORI'S SITUATION.
THIS REALLY IS A WEIRD GAME.
WHAT DOES MIJIN HAVE IN MIND?
HMM...
REALLY...
PLAYING ON AN EVEN STAGE AGAINST A GIRL, AND WITH ME GOING FIRST.

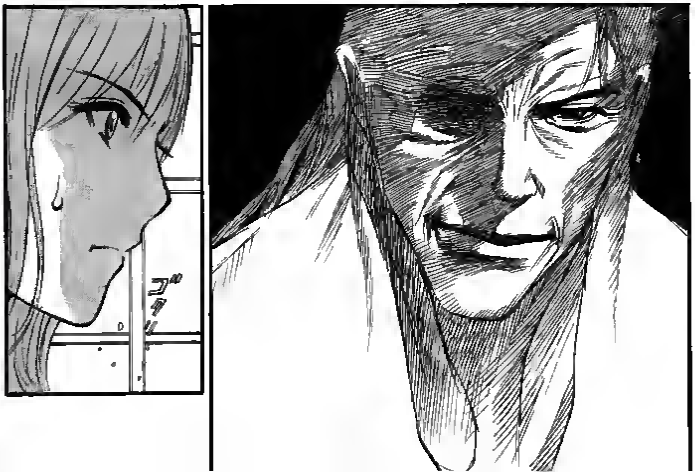
PLEASE TAKE THAT BACK!
MAKOTO MEIJIN HAD ALREADY THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING BEFORE ENTERING THIS COMPE-TITION.
HEY, HEY DON'T GET ANGRY...
YOU'RE MAKING IT SOUND LIKE I'M SPEAKING BADLY OF HIM.
NO, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...


BUT, ISN'T THE PERSON WHO WANTS TO DESTROY THE SHOGI WORLD...

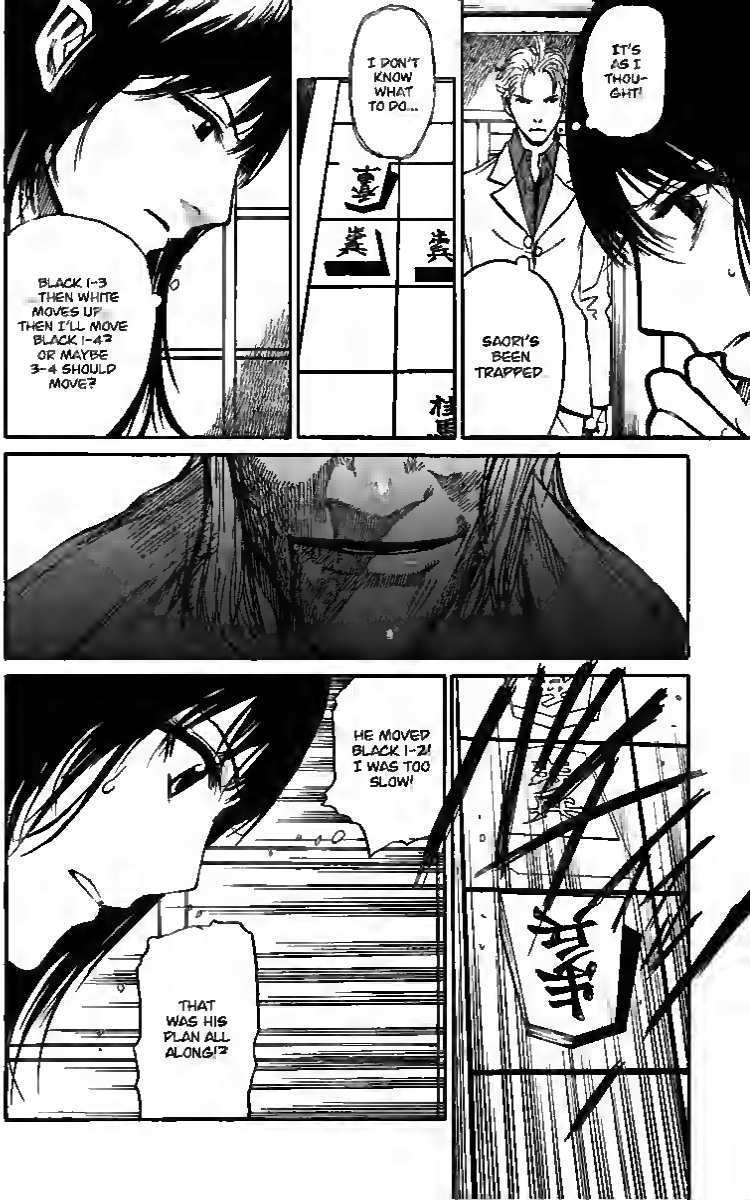

.....?
MEIJIN HIMSELF?

BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN WHATEVER THAT ORGANIZATION WANTS TO DO WITH THE SHOGI WORLD... SOMEONE LIKE ME...
WHATEVER MAKOTO WANTS TO DO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
将棋
事務

HE'S MOVING A PIECE!
THE RECENT MOVES AREN'T FAMILIAR TO ME...
THIS KIND OF INTENSE BATTLE SEEMS TO BE MORE LIKE OSAMU'S STRATEGY WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER.



I CAN ALSO PUT IT HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT, LITTLE LADY?
HUH!?
THEN..


IT'S AS I THOUGHT!
SAORI'S BEEN TRAPPED
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
BLACK 1-3 THEN WHITE MOVES UP THEN I'LL MOVE BLACK 1-4? OR MAYBE 3-4 SHOULD MOVE?
HE MOVED BLACK 1-2! I WAS TOO SLOW!
THAT WAS HIS PLAN ALL ALONG!?

AH
I'VE LET MAKOTO SEE ME LIKE THIS.....
SORRY FOR INTRUDING.
MAKOTO ..
HOW RARE!
YOU ACTUALLY CAME TO SEE SOME-ONE ELSE'S GAME.
IT'S BE-CAUSE SHE IS MY ADORABLE YOUNGER SISTER AND DISCIPLE.
...YOUNGER SISTER AND DISCIPLE?

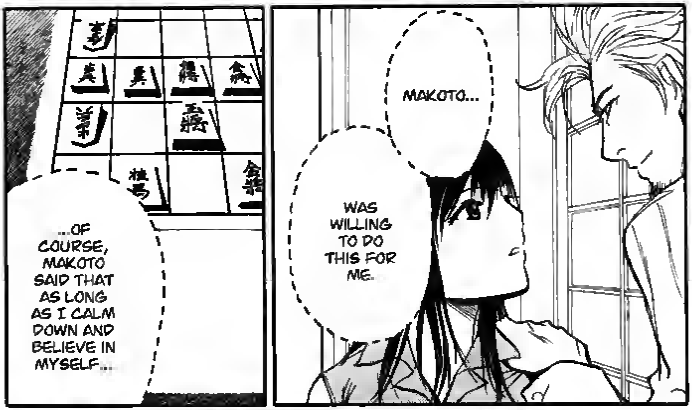
I COULD BELIEVE SHE'S YOUR DISCIPLE.
BUT RIGHT NOW SAORI HAS THE ABILITY TO PLAY WITH YOU ON EVEN TERMS, OSAMU!
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS? SAORI AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO JOIN YOU.

SHE'S ALREADY PLANNED ON BEAT-ING YOU!
RIGHT, SAORI?
...RIGHT!
AS LONG AS SHE STAYS CALM AND SHOWS HER STRENGTH, SHE WILL DEFINITELY TURN THIS GAME AROUND.

DON'T WANT TO SEE THE BLOOD SACRIFICE?
...BLOOD SACRI-FICE?
LET ME GO...
I'M STILL NOT MATURE ENOUGH!
HMPF!

LONG AGO... IT WAS USED TO LET THE PEOPLE ON THE SIDES KNOW...
WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE BLOOD SACRIFICE,
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FOUR CORNERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOARD.
THAT TALKING ABOUT THE GAME IS A TERRIBLE OFFENCE.
THEY WOULD CUT OFF THE HEAD OF THE OFFENDER AND PLACE IT THERE
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

BEING ABLE TO ATTAIN VICTORY IS THAT SERIOUS!


MAKOTO...
WAS WILLING TO DO THIS FOR ME.
...OF COURSE, MAKOTO SAID THAT AS LONG AS I CALM DOWN AND BELIEVE IN MYSELF...

I KNOW ...
LETTING YOU SEE ME LIKE THAT IS SO EMBARRASSING.
EXHALE

THIS IS---
A COMPETI-TION BETWEEN ME AND OSAMU-SAN.

SIGH
SHE FINALLY THOUGHT IT THROUGH
BUT LIKE THIS, SAORI SHOULD BE ABLE TO RE-TURN TO HER STATE OF CALMNESS

SAORI... SHE...
IF SHE LOSES IN THE 2ND ROUND, I'LL BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION!

Greetings, reoders!

Hope you enjoyed the chapter
Immortal Abyss will be scanlating the rest of
Shion no Ou, so if you are a fan, be sure to
stop by our forum or website to download
future releases

Here's a special shout-out to our
fabulous new translator BlueCloud and our
awesome new proofreader, Anes_Girl
Welcome to the team, ladies! kukuku ^^

Translator **BlueCloud**
Proofreader *Aries_Girl*
Editor **Inte**
Quality Checker *Bearking*
Translation Checker **Cmertb**

IMMORTAL ABYSS IS RECRUITING!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SCANLATORS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS! COME JOIN US SO WE CAN SCANLATE MORE AWESOME SERIES FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

TRANSLATOR: CHINESE OR JAPANESE. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

CLEANER/TYPESETTER: MUST HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH EDITING MANGA, AND BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF PHOTOSHOP.

EDITOR: MUST BE ABLE TO CLEAN, TYPESET, AS WELL AS DO REDRAW.